



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 2026



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,

It continues to be a true privilege to serve as Superintendent of the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District. Each day, I am inspired by the pride, passion and commitment of our students, staff, families and community. Together, we are building something special, an environment where students and staff feel connected, supported and empowered to thrive.

At Frankfort-Schuyler, we believe in taking care of ourselves, taking care of each other and always putting kids first. This year, that commitment has come to life in powerful ways through our *RAK 'Em Up: Lead Like a Maroon Knight* initiative. Acts of kindness, leadership and shared responsibility are not just ideas, they are part of who we are. You can see it in our classrooms, our hallways, our events and in the way our students and staff show up for one another every day.

We are also incredibly excited about the impact of the most recent phase of our Capital Project. The additions and improvements to our facilities enhance the student experience, providing modern, engaging and safe spaces that reflect the pride we have in our schools and community. These investments are about more than buildings; they create opportunities for our students to learn, grow and succeed at the highest levels.

As we enter this year's budget season, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to our Board of Education for their leadership and dedication. Their thoughtful approach and commitment to balancing opportunity with responsibility ensures that we remain focused on what matters most: providing the very best for our students while being mindful of our community.

This budget is the result of a true team effort. From our District office to the administrative team, and from our faculty to staff, there has been a shared commitment to innovation, collaboration and continuous improvement. Together, we have developed a plan that not only sustains our strong foundation but also creates opportunities to grow, evolve and meet the needs of all learners.

The proposed budget reflects our continued investment in student success. It supports high-quality academic programming, social-emotional learning, student engagement opportunities, athletics, the arts and enriching experiences that help every child find their place and their passion. It also reflects careful, strategic planning to ensure long-term stability and sustainability.

Most importantly, this budget represents our belief in our students and our future. We encourage you to review the information provided in this newsletter and on our website, and to stay engaged throughout the process. Your voice and partnership are essential to the continued success of our District.

The future is bright at Frankfort-Schuyler. When we continue to RAK 'Em Up, support one another and lead like Maroon Knights, there is no limit to what we can accomplish. Thank you for your ongoing support and for being such an important part of our school community.

Joseph M. Palmer
Superintendent of Schools

BUDGET HEARING | May 5, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m. | High School Cafeteria

BUDGET & ELECTION VOTE | May 19, 2026 from 12:00 – 8:00 p.m. | High School Old Gymnasium

2026-2027 Budget Overview

The Board of Education has adopted the proposed 2026–2027 school budget, which includes a tax levy increase of 3.25%. This budget reflects the District’s continued commitment to maintaining all current programs while also introducing several new initiatives and enhancements to support student success.

The District’s calculated tax cap is 8.84%, and the overall budget-to-budget increase is 10.37%. Of this increase, 4.91% is directly attributed to Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) payments associated with the current capital project. These payments are offset by a corresponding increase in state aid.

Excluding capital project expenses, the true programmatic budget increase is 5.46%, with the primary cost drivers being special education services and health insurance.

KEY INVESTMENTS IN STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS

This budget prioritizes expanding opportunities and strengthening support systems for students through:

- Addition of a Library Media Specialist K-12
- Development of in-district special education programs to bring students back from out-of-district placements
- Continuation of after-school and summer enrichment programs (Elementary)
- Continuation of added electives (Secondary)
- Continuation of pre-kindergarten (Two classrooms)
- Maintenance/ addition of key staff:
 - Occupational Therapist
 - Physical Therapist Assistant
 - Behavioral Specialist
 - Student Engagement Specialist (Secondary)
 - 0.4 ESL Teacher
 - Elementary AIS Teacher
 - Full-Time Social Workers and School Psychologists
- Expansion of athletic opportunities
- Continued support for all K-12 arts, music and STEAM programs
- Ongoing support for the District’s annual musical production

We will be looking at maintaining the following reduction and/or efficiencies of services for cost savings:

- Bringing back purchasing from BOCES and processing in-house with existing staff
- Bringing back homeschool instruction from BOCES and processing in-house with existing staff
- Technology services maintaining at district level rather than shifting to outsourcing to BOCES/RIC
- Continuation of CBO services, school lunch and technology purchasing through OHM BOCES
- Continuation of NYSMEC Consortium for the purchase of heating gas

Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$25,333,468	\$27,960,431	\$27,661,525
Increase/Decrease for 2026-27 School Year		\$2,626,963	\$2,328,057
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		10.37%	9.19%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$9,197,106	\$9,496,012	
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)	\$9,197,106	\$9,496,012	\$9,197,106
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$265,261	\$332,368	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,118,121	\$9,677,371	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$8,931,845	\$9,163,644	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	(\$813,724)	\$513,727	
Administrative Component	\$2,942,822	\$3,074,724	\$2,940,173
Program Component	\$17,909,676	\$18,426,018	\$18,277,663
Capital Component	\$4,480,970	\$6,459,689	\$6,443,689

*Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law and the New York State property tax legislation, the 2026-27 contingency budget would require reductions in the amount of \$298,906.

Description	Amount
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

** 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)

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$472 / \$517

The annual budget vote for 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District, Herkimer County, New York, will be held at the Junior/Senior High School in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 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.

General Fund Appropriations

		2025-26	2026-27
		Budget	Budget
I.	BOARD OF EDUCATION		
	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.		
1010	Board of Education	\$18,500	\$20,531
1040	District Clerk	\$20,800	\$19,300
1060	District Meetings	\$3,000	\$3,500
Total	Board of Education.....	\$42,300	\$43,331
II.	CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION		
	Salaries, supplies, and materials for the Superintendent and the Superintendent's secretary.		
1240	Superintendent, Superintendent Secretary, Supplies	\$226,500	\$242,500
Total	Central Administration	\$226,500	\$242,500
III.	FINANCE		
	Included are salaries, supplies, and materials that relate to the fiscal operations of the school district.		
1310	Business Administration	\$346,750	\$363,294
1320	Auditing	\$31,500	\$31,500
1325	Treasurer	\$4,700	\$4,700
1330	Tax Collector.....	\$12,000	\$13,500
1345	Purchasing.....	\$4,800	\$5,700
1380	Fiscal Agent Fees	\$6,500	\$7,500
Total	Finance.....	\$406,250	\$426,194
IV.	STAFF		
1420	Legal	\$55,000	\$60,000
1430	Personnel.....	\$65,250	\$67,800
1460	Records Management	\$4,700	\$6,500
1480	Public Information.....	\$63,500	\$74,000
Total	Staff	\$188,450	\$208,300
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	\$1,396,925	\$1,496,149
1621	Maintenance	\$460,500	\$501,000
1670	Central Printing & Mailing	\$122,000	\$122,000
Total	Central Services.....	\$1,979,425	\$2,119,149
VI.	SPECIAL ITEMS		
	Included are insurance premiums, potential property tax refunds, and BOCES administrative charges.		
1910	Unallocated Insurance.....	\$131,250	\$142,560
1920	School Association Dues.....	\$5,000	\$5,000
1964	Refund of Property Taxes.....	\$4,000	\$4,000
1981	BOCES Administrative Charge	\$1,522,000	\$1,617,000
Total	Special Items.....	\$1,662,250	\$1,768,560
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT		\$4,505,175	\$4,808,034
		Instruction	
		2025-2026	2026-2027
		Budget	Budget
I.	ADMINISTRATION & CURR IMPROVEMENT		
	Includes salaries, supplies and materials necessary for development/supervision of instructional programs.		
2010	Curriculum Development and Support.....	\$71,000	\$77,000
2020	Supervision - Regular School.....	\$615,000	\$600,700
2060	Research, Planning, Evaluation	\$3,000	\$3,000
2070	In-Service Training - Instruction	\$27,100	\$27,300
Total	Administration & Curr Improvement.....	\$716,100	\$708,000
II.	TEACHING - REGULAR SCHOOL		
	This category includes salaries, textbooks, BOCES Services and all supplies for the educational programs.		
2110	Teaching - Regular School.....	\$5,243,000	\$5,272,290
Total	Teaching - Regular School	\$5,243,000	\$5,272,290

General Fund Appropriations

		2025-26	2026-27
		Budget	Budget
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.			
2250	Programs for Students with Disabilities.....	\$3,741,500	\$4,119,513
2259	English Language Learners	\$162,000	\$132,438
2280	Occupational Education.....	\$729,000	\$826,000
2330	Teaching Special Schools	\$64,000	\$57,000
Total	Special Apportionment Programs.....	\$4,696,500	\$5,134,951
IV. INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA			
Includes salaries and supplies for media and library services and all costs of the district technology programs.			
2610	School Library & Audiovisual	\$173,500	\$202,000
2630	Computer Assisted Instruction	\$408,000	\$472,000
Total	Instructional Media.....	\$581,500	\$674,000
V. PUPIL SERVICES			
Includes attendance, guidance, health, psychological services, extracurricular activities, and sports.			
2805	Attendance	\$6,300	\$6,500
2810	Guidance.....	\$274,000	\$315,500
2815	Health Services	\$207,201	\$215,250
2816	Diagnostic Screening	\$6,000	\$6,000
2850	Co-Curricular Activities	\$124,000	\$141,500
2855	Interscholastic Athletics	\$314,100	\$362,500
Total	Pupil Services.....	\$931,601	\$1,047,250
TOTAL INSTRUCTION		\$12,168,701	\$12,836,491
Pupil Transportation			
I. PUPIL TRANSPORTATION			
Includes all costs for transportation to public/private schools and transportation for handicapped students.			
5510	Transportation.....	\$35,000	\$35,000
5540	Contract Transportation.....	\$1,837,530	\$1,940,440
TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION		\$1,872,530	\$1,975,440
Undistributed			
		2025-26	2026-27
		Budget	Budget
I. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS			
9010-20	Retirement	\$992,595	\$945,779
9030	Social Security.....	\$719,292	\$730,055
9040	Workers' Compensation	\$73,000	\$74,000
9045	Life Insurance	\$11,800	\$14,250
9050	Unemployment Insurance	\$38,500	\$34,000
9055	Disability Insurance	\$2,500	\$3,500
9060	Hospital, Medical & Dental Insurance	\$4,268,625	\$4,611,475
Total	Employee Benefits	\$6,106,312	\$6,413,059
II. DEBT SERVICE			
9721	Serial Bonds - Principal	\$405,000	\$430,000
9722	Serial Bonds - Interest	\$261,750	\$241,500
9770	Revenue Anticipation Notes - Interest.....	\$0	\$890,000
9770	Revenue Anticipation Notes - Interest.....	\$0	\$350,907
9770	Revenue Anticipation Notes - Interest.....	\$0	\$0
Total	Debt Service.....	\$666,750	\$1,912,407
III. INTERFUND TRANSFERS			
9901	Transfers to Special Aid Fund.....	\$14,000	\$15,000
9930	Transfers to Capital Fund	\$0	\$0
Total	Interfund Transfers.....	\$14,000	\$15,000
TOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		\$6,787,062	\$8,340,466
GRAND TOTAL		\$25,333,468	\$27,960,431

Budget News

Tax Levy to Tax Levy

Year	Tax Levy	\$ Inc	% Inc	Levy Limit
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%
2026/2027	\$9,496,012.00	\$298,906.00	3.25%	8.84%
WITH CAPITAL	Over 16 Years	\$204,023.06	2.68%	2.20%
	Over 10 years	\$217,018.30	2.63%	1.94%



Budget News

Estimated 2026-2027 Revenues

Revenue Category	2025-2026 Budget	Proposed 2026-2027 Budget
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,100,000	\$1,350,000
Real Property Taxes & STAR	\$9,197,106	\$9,496,012
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$1,249,924	\$724,920
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	\$15,000	\$15,000
Interest Earnings	\$55,000	\$55,000
Tuitions	\$265,000	\$270,000
Miscellaneous & Grant Funding	\$145,609	\$166,042
Transfers & Reserve Usage	\$627,000	\$1,102,080
Medicaid Reimbursements	\$60,000	\$60,000
Medicare Part D Reimbursement	\$45,000	\$45,000
Foundation Aid	\$8,274,425	\$8,276,030
Expense Driven Aids	\$4,299,404	\$6,400,347 *
Total	\$25,333,468	\$27,960,431

*Building Aid Increase of \$1,208,105 to offset increase in Debt Payments

FSCSD Proposed 2026-27 Budget

INCLUDES BOCES AND DISTRICT CAPITAL PROJECT

Budget Amount: \$27,960,431

Budget Increase: \$2,626,963

Budget Increase: 10.37%

Tax Levy Increase*: 3.25%

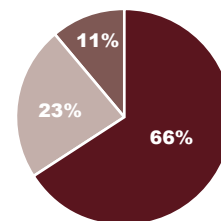
*Allowable under NYS Tax Cap: 8.84%

EXCLUDING DISTRICT CAPITAL PROJECT

Budget Increase Amount: \$1,381,306

Budget Increase Amount: 5.46%

Expenditures Three-Part Budget



Total Expenditures: \$27,960,431

■ Program: \$18,426,018

■ Capital: \$6,459,689

■ Administration: \$3,074,724

2026-2027 Projected Budget

TAX LEVY INCREASE ON AVERAGE \$100,000 ASSESSED HOME

PROJECTED TAX LEVY

Increase in Tax	Monthly Increase Frankfort	Monthly Increase Schuylar	Annual Increase Frankfort	Annual Increase Schuylar
3.25%	\$7.62	\$6.58	\$91.44	\$78.96

NOTE: These projections are using prior year equalization rates and assesses values (with the addition of a small PILOT that was added back to the rolls in 2026-2027)

*Allowable Tax Cap is 8.84%

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES



SANDRA BELLASSAI

Sandra Bellassai is a parent, community member, and experienced program director with a strong background in supporting children and families across the Mohawk Valley. She currently serves as Director of Early Childhood Programs at a nonprofit organization, leading programs designed to support families, strengthen relationships, and improve outcomes for children. In her role, Sandra manages multi-million dollar annual budgets, leads teams across multiple counties, and ensures program quality, compliance, and excellence. She also brings experience with grant writing and grant management at the local, state, and federal levels. Sandra holds a Bachelor’s degree in Health, Behavior, and Society and a Master’s degree in Public Health. She has partnered with local school districts, including Frankfort-Schuyler, to support improved student mental health outcomes and expand resources for teachers and staff.

As a first-generation college graduate, Sandra values the role that strong schools and supportive communities play in shaping opportunities for students. She is currently serving her second year as PTO Secretary and is an active member of the school community, with a child in both the elementary and middle school. Her children are involved in music, arts, and athletics, and she appreciates the impact that educational and extracurricular opportunities have on student growth and well-being. Sandra is committed to supporting strong schools, open communication, and thoughtful, responsible decision-making, and is running for the Board of Education to contribute her experience and support positive outcomes for all students.



PATRICK J. FRACCOLA JR.

Patrick J. Fraccola Jr. is a lifelong member of the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District community, born and raised in Frankfort and a graduate of the Class of 2012, where he served as class president. He holds a Master of Science in Nursing Education and currently serves as Director of Nursing at Masonic Care Community of New York.

As both an educator and healthcare leader, Patrick brings a strong background in leadership, accountability, and data-driven decision-making. As a parent with children in the district, he is committed to ensuring that Frankfort-Schuyler continues to provide a high-quality, transparent, and student-centered educational environment. Patrick believes in responsible governance, open communication, and being actively engaged in decisions that impact students, families, and the community.



DANIELLE MCEWEN

I am proud to bring over 20 years of experience in education, turning my lifelong passion for helping others into a meaningful career advocating for students and families. I currently teach third grade in the Utica City School District and hold dual certifications in elementary and special education. Through my work with diverse learners, committee involvement, mentoring, and leadership as a PTO president, I have developed a strong understanding of student needs and the importance of school-community collaboration. I am also a proud parent of Robert and Giuliana, who attend the Frankfort-Schuyler School District and are at the heart of my commitment to this school community.

My decision to run for the Board of Education is rooted in both my professional experience and my deep personal connection to this district. I am committed to supporting and retaining strong educators and staff, expanding opportunities for students, promoting responsible budgeting, and strengthening communication so all voices are heard. Frankfort-Schuyler has given so much to my family, and I would be honored to give back by serving and advocating for the continued success of our students, schools, and community.



ERIK MORSE

Erik Morse is a life-long valley resident, dedicated community member and proud father who has called Frankfort home since 2011. Over the years, he has built strong roots in the community while raising his two sons, Sebastian and Sam. His oldest, Sebastian, is currently a senior, and his youngest, Sam, is in 8th grade, both actively involved in extracurricular activities.

Erik’s passion for the community is evident through his constant involvement in events and programs that support youth and families. Whether it’s volunteering, assisting with activities, or showing up to support his sons and friends, Erik is always willing to lend a hand wherever it’s needed.

Running for the school board, Erik is committed to strengthening the connection between families, schools, and the community. He believes in creating a positive, supportive environment where all students have the opportunity to succeed, and where parents feel heard and involved. His hands-on experience as a father and active community member drives his dedication to making a meaningful impact in Frankfort’s schools.

FRANKFORT-SCHUYLER CSD ACQUIRES New Shelving through NYSED Program

With the help of a New York State Education Department program that connects public schools with opportunities to acquire materials when they become available, the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District has acquired more than \$35,000 worth of shelving that will be used in several locations throughout the District.



Frankfort-Schuyler CSD worked closely with NYSED and the University at Buffalo to secure the shelving. Some of the shelving will be utilized outdoors in the storage facilities near the sports complex and maintenance building, and some will be used indoors in newly repurposed storage areas created through the District's Capital Project.

Additionally, some shelving will be used in the Maroon Market, the District's Community School Room that will soon be established. At the Maroon Market, students and families will have access to personal hygiene items, school supplies, clothing and shelf-stable food items.

Frankfort-Schuyler CSD is grateful for the opportunity provided through this NYSED program, which allows districts to make use of available resources that might otherwise go unused. The additional shelving will help the District better organize supplies, expand storage capacity and support initiatives like the Maroon Market that directly benefit students, staff and families. The Maroon Market is fully sustained by grants and donations with no cost to the District. By taking advantage of opportunities like this, the District is able to strengthen its facilities while continuing to support the needs of the entire school community.

Frankfort FREE Library

The Frankfort Free Library continues to enthusiastically provide free public access to its collections, computers, books, periodicals, newspapers, internet, reading, craft and art classes for children and adults, special events, and use of the community room, which allows for privacy for patrons and friends of all ages, from preschool to senior citizens, and a space for groups to meet. This room in particular allows for meetings and activities including qualified tutors throughout the year.

The library is seeking a modest increase of 4% from last year for a total amount of \$140,603.72 tax levy to keep pace with increasing operating costs. Voting on the measure will be done in conjunction with the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District budget vote and Board of Education election on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, from noon until 8 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. high school.

The Library Board of Trustees – which is comprised of members throughout the District from the Town of Schuyler, the Town of Frankfort including West Frankfort, and the Village of Frankfort – 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. The public hearing will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026 from 5-6 p.m. Please check the library's website at frankfortfreelibrary.org, or the library's Facebook page for details.

We are looking forward to another successful summer this year with events that will include an ice cream social with music provided by Justin Smithson to kick off the summer, which will take place on the lawn on 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 the scheduled events as well as other library information such as the days and times it is open. Please contact the library at 315.894.9611 with any questions.

John H. Schuyler, President

STUDENTS TO VOTE ON NEW LUNCH MENU ITEM

Frankfort-Schuyler students will once again have the chance to participate in a vote of their own when District residents head to the polls on May 19.

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 can vote on a fun decision of their own – selecting a new lunch menu item for the next school year!

The options to choose from include:

**Buffalo Chicken
Tater Tots**



**Chicken
Pot Pie**



**Chicken Veggie
Stir Fry**



Parents and guardians are encouraged to bring their students along when they come out to vote. The District is excited to see which option students will pick!

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY



Students at Frankfort-Schuyler Jr./Sr. High School were recognized for their academic achievement and commitment to leadership and service during the National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony held on March 12.

During the ceremony, new members were welcomed into the school's National Junior Honor Society chapter, which recognizes middle school students who

demonstrate excellence in scholarship, leadership, service and character. Student speakers highlighted the organization's core values, and a candle-lighting ceremony symbolized each pillar. The program also included remarks from school administrators, the National Junior Honor Society pledge and a symbolic passing of the light to welcome the newest inductees.

The following students were inducted into the chapter: Isabella Conley, Marcello Hare, Lawrence Myers, Sophia Conley, Rocco Henrickson, Karlee Reed, Maniya Coulthurst, Nolan Jarosz, Levon Shank, Trevor Curri, Avery Maley, Elisabeth Skermont, James Day, Emma Marlowe, Parker Streeter, Mattisyn McLean and Zoe McCovery.

Returning members who have completed one year in the organization were also recognized for their continued commitment to the principles of the National Junior Honor Society. School officials thanked the students for their dedication to academic excellence, leadership and service within the school community.



CLASS OF 2026 VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN, TOP 10 PERCENT

The Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District is proud to recognize the class of 2026 valedictorian, salutatorian and the top 10 students in the graduating class.

Congratulations to Emin Besirevic*, the class of 2026 valedictorian, and Santino Tomasi*, the salutatorian.

The students in the top 10 of their class, listed in alphabetical order, include Destiny Chhom*, Madison Goodhines*, Luke Harrod*, Joseph Mathlin*, Raegan Migliore*, Damian Seifried, Evan Teachout, Addyson Thibault* and Kayla Wasyleski.

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

*Advanced Regents Designation

FRANKFORT-SCHUYLER STUDENTS SHINE IN 'Legally Blonde: The Musical'



The stage at Frankfort-Schuyler Jr./Sr. High School came alive with energy, laughter and a whole lot of pink as students brought "Legally Blonde: The Musical" to life on March 27-28. From the first upbeat number to the final curtain call, audiences were swept into the vibrant world of Elle Woods, a fashionable sorority girl who enrolls at Harvard Law School to win back her ex-boyfriend. The journey turns to one of self-discovery as she proves that she is far more intelligent and capable than others expect.

"Legally Blonde: The Musical" is a fun and energetic stage adaptation of the popular film "Legally Blonde" that blends humor, catchy songs and heartfelt moments highlighting Elle's growth from underestimated outsider to confident law student. Along the way, supportive friends and evolving relationships help her to realize her true potential.

The cast of 40 Frankfort-Schuyler students began rehearsing for the musical in January, dedicating time out of their day, five days per week, to put on an outstanding show. The cast, crew, set construction team, pit band and directors worked collaboratively to deliver three energetic shows to the Frankfort-Schuyler community.

The cast and crew are incredibly grateful for the support of the Frankfort-Schuyler community, which helped make this production a truly memorable experience for all involved.



FRANKFORT-SCHUYLER ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES KINDNESS OLYMPICS

Students in pre-K through fifth grade at Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School wrapped up a month of kindness with a spirited Kindness Olympics Closing Ceremonies assembly on Feb. 27.

The event featured torch relays, a speed skating relay, curling and a spirited singalong to “We Will Rock You.” Students arrived with enthusiasm and cheered on their teammates throughout the celebration.

February marked the school’s Month of Kindness, culminating in the Kindness Olympics. Students met their schoolwide goal of completing 23 Big Acts of Community Kindness, demonstrating positivity, enthusiasm and compassion along the way.

The initiative began with a Kickoff to Kindness that challenged each classroom to complete a Big Act of Community Kindness beyond the school walls. Students created Valentine’s Day cards for nursing home residents and hospital patients, showed appreciation for local police and fire departments, made hats for people in need and crafted cards to encourage the District’s boys and girls basketball teams during sectional semifinal play.

Progress was tracked on a display in the school foyer, where medals were added as classes completed their projects. Students also took part in kindness activities with their Hi-5 Friends and participated in at-home Kindness Bingo. Each act of kindness was represented by a heart placed on the school’s Kindness Tree, which quickly filled as the month progressed.

During the second week, students showed school spirit through themed dress-up days and friendly competition for the spirit paddle while continuing their Big Acts of Kindness. A schoolwide Reading Buddy event in recognition of National Read Aloud Day paired students across grade levels, creating memorable shared reading experiences.

Momentum continued into the third week as classes worked to earn additional medals and reach their goal. By the end of the week, the school achieved its target.

Over the midwinter break, students extended the initiative at home by completing Kindness Bingo cards. Finished cards earned prizes and more hearts for the Kindness Tree.

The month concluded with the Closing Ceremonies assembly and a visit from the candy cart. Grade levels competed in friendly Olympic-style games and reflected on the collective impact of their efforts.

The Kindness Olympics served as a reminder that small acts can make a big difference. School leaders praised the Maroon Knights for leading with heart and demonstrating that kindness continues to grow both inside and outside the classroom.



SPRING-O BRINGS JOY, COMMUNITY TO FRANKFORT-SCHUYLER

Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School families recently came together for one of the school year’s most anticipated traditions: Spring-O, hosted by the PTO. This annual event provided a fun-filled morning that celebrated the season and strengthened connections within the school community.

Families enjoyed a wide variety of activities, including bingo, egg hunts, carnival games and raffles. A special highlight for many students was the opportunity to take photos with the Easter Bunny, adding to the excitement and festive atmosphere.

The success of Spring-O is made possible through the dedication of many volunteers. Jr./Sr. high school students, along with numerous teachers and staff members, generously gave their time to help run activities and ensure the event ran smoothly. Their efforts played a key role in creating a welcoming and enjoyable experience for all.

Thank you to the PTO members whose hard work and commitment makes this event possible each year. From planning and organizing to setting up, running activities and cleaning up afterward, their efforts create a truly special experience for our students and families.

Eighth Grade Student Earns NJHS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



The Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District is proud to announce that Sophia Bull, an eighth grade student at Frankfort-Schuyler Jr./Sr. High School, has been named a recipient of the prestigious 2026 National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award!

This honor is awarded to 500 students nationwide who exemplify a commitment to the five pillars of NJHS: scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship. Sophia’s dedication to excellence both in and out of the classroom has earned her a \$500 award, which will be placed into a college savings account.

Congratulations to Sophia on this outstanding achievement!



Frankfort-Schuyler CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Bids Farewell to Retiring Staff Members

The Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to seven outstanding members of the Frankfort-Schuyler school community as they begin their well-earned retirements.

Mark Spina, special education teacher, is retiring after 23 years of dedicated service. Throughout his career, Mark has made a lasting impact on his students through his patience, compassion and unwavering commitment to helping each child reach their full potential.

Amy Campbell, AIS teacher, is retiring after 20 years of service. Amy has supported countless students on their academic journeys, providing encouragement, guidance and the extra help needed to build confidence and achieve success.

After an incredible 33 years, physical education/health teacher and Athletic Director **Jeff Lagase** is retiring. Jeff's leadership in both the classroom and athletic programs has shaped generations of students, promoting teamwork, perseverance and school pride.

Deborah Wilson-Allam, ELL teacher, is retiring after four years of service. During her time with the District, Deborah has been a strong advocate for multilingual learners, fostering an inclusive environment and helping students feel welcomed, supported and empowered.

Nancie Cooney is retiring after four years with the District, having returned from retirement to once again share her creativity and passion with Frankfort-Schuyler students. Her dedication to fostering artistic expression and her enthusiasm in the classroom have made a meaningful impact in a short time.

The District would also like to recognize longtime teaching assistant **Jill Belmont**, who has retired after an incredible 30 years of service to the District. Throughout her career, she has supported countless students and staff, building strong relationships and contributing to a positive and caring learning environment.

Mike Stalteri has dedicated the past 11 years to serving as Jr./Sr. High School Principal with unwavering commitment, integrity and pride. His leadership has had a lasting impact on Frankfort-Schuyler students, staff and the school community, and he has always kept what is best for kids at the center of every decision. Mike built strong relationships, fostered a positive school culture, and helped guide the high school through years of growth and success. His steady presence, thoughtful leadership and genuine care for others will be missed.

The Frankfort-Schuyler CSD thanks each of these educators for their years of dedication and the positive influence they have had on Frankfort-Schuyler students and the school community. We wish them all the best in their next chapter!

VOTE

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE ON
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026, FROM 12:00 - 8:00 P.M.
AT THE HIGH SCHOOL OLD GYMNASIUM.**