



WELCOME TO OUR

School Newsletter

Principal's Message

By: Dr. April Carrigan

Happy New Year! I am so excited for this school year! It has been wonderful to see our students and their smiling faces again! Our students have enjoyed making new friends, learning new routines, and building relationships with their new teachers.

When visiting our school, please remember to have a photo ID with you. A picture of your driver's license or passport on your phone will not be accepted. Additionally, when picking up your child in the car rider line, please make sure your car tag is visible. If you are a walker, you still need to present a car tag. If you do not have your car tag, you will be asked to go to the office and show ID to pick up your child.

As a reminder, Friday, September 4 is an Early Dismissal Day. Our students will be dismissed at 12:30. If your child will be going home a different way that day, please ensure your child's teacher knows. Also, we will not have school on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day.

Thank you for your support and partnering with us! My door is always open. You may reach me at (615) 794-1187 or email at carriganapr@fssd.org. We are excited for another year, and it's "Game on for Learning!"

ISSUE 1

AUGUST 23, 2026

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Assistant Principal's Tip

By: Lauren Simpson

Hi families! I am thrilled to begin a new school year and look forward to partnering with you to make it a great year! Please remember to arrive on time each day and help students start their mornings prepared and ready to learn. Consistent morning routines and a positive start will help set the tone for a successful day. Thank you!

Counselor's Corner

By: Andrea Gillette

Welcome back to Franklin Elementary! We are so excited about this upcoming school year. Whether you are new to Franklin Elementary or have been here, we are delighted to see you and look forward to working with you and your child. I love seeing all the smiling faces of new and old students. Just to clarify my role here, I am the School Counselor. As the School Counselor, I teach classes, often referred to as guidance class or school counseling class. Every class comes to my room two times a month for lessons. School Counselors teach skills to help students become successful students and citizens. The topics include friendship skills, manners, feelings, decision making, conflict resolution, study skills, peer pressure, saying no to drugs, safe/unsafe touches, etc. I also work with students in small groups to help build and teach skills. The topics of small groups can include friendship group, anger management group, self-concept group, citizenship group, study skills group, and handling worries group. To participate in a small group, parent permission is required. If your child participates, you will know. I also see students individually as a need arises.

This week the first, second, and fourth grades came to my class. Next week, the kindergarten and third grade students will come to my class. During the first lesson, the students learned about the rules for classroom behavior and who the counselor is. After that, the students will learn about showing respect and being a good friend. I hope you and your child have had a pleasant experience so far this year! If you have questions or need more information, please feel free to call me at 794-1187 or email me at gilletteand@fssd.org. I look forward to a terrific year at FES!

Parenting Tip

To better adjust to the school routine and schedule, please make sure your child gets plenty of rest. Getting to bed early can be hard for working families, but adequate rest is necessary for children to learn and control their emotions. Once you develop a consistent routine, it becomes much easier. Also, take all phones and electronics out of the bedroom as these inhibit sleep.



Coordinated School Health

By: Lisa Chatman

Common Back To School Bugs & Illnesses

Returning to class also means close contact with other students and allowing illnesses to easily spread. The common theme is to practice good hygiene. Some sicknesses are bound to spread but you and your student can help control the spread by encouraging good handwashing.

Pink Eye

Pink Eye is known to be highly contagious. It is an eye infection that can be caused by different viruses, bacteria, allergens, or chemical irritants like chlorine. The good news is that pink eye is preventable by washing hands regularly with soap and water.

Symptoms include :

- Swelling of the eye
- Redness of the eye
- High tear production
- Crusty eyelashes

The Common Cold

The cold is highly contagious, airborne and also spread through physical contact. Again, hand washing is important for prevention.

Symptoms include:

- Runny nose
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Coughing
- Poor appetite
- Aches

Strep Throat

Strep is a bacterial infection that once confirmed by a doctor, is usually treated with antibiotics. It spreads easily. Good handwashing and avoiding sharing drinks and utensils helps in preventing the spread.

Symptoms to watch for:

- Sore throat
- Painful to swallow
- Red and swollen tonsils
- White patches in the throat
- Fever
- Headache
- Vomiting
- Tender lymph nodes in the neck



What's the PTO Up To?

By: Joanna Gregg, PTO President

Welcome back, FES families! We are so excited for another great year at Franklin Elementary! Your PTO is already busy getting committees organized, planning events, and working behind the scenes to make this a fun and memorable year for our students, staff, and families.

One of the first BIG things on our list is the Cub Run—our biggest fundraiser of the year—coming up Thursday, October 8! Fun fact: The Cub Run is planned and organized entirely by FES PTO volunteers! It'll be here before we know it, and we're already working to make this our best year yet! Last year, our FES community raised an incredible \$33,437, which helped fund a new sensory sandbox, flooring for the Gaga Ball pit, cleaning and resealing of the basketball court, and new smart boards for classrooms.

We're ready to make this year's Cub Run even bigger and better—but we need your help! We're looking for volunteers to help with the Cub Run and several other events throughout the year. With some of our longtime PTO volunteers moving on from FES, we have a few spots to fill on our event committees, including help planning events like our Thanksgiving Lunch. Whether you have a lot of time or just a little, there's a way to get involved!

And just a reminder—there's no “membership” required to be part of the FES PTO! Come to meetings if you'd like, skip them if you can't, volunteer at an event, help with a committee, or even lend a hand from home. We know everyone is busy, and we're happy to have you participate in whatever capacity works for you. Whether you have an hour, a whole afternoon, or just a little time here and there, if you want to help, we'll find a way for you to be part of it!

Stay connected! Check ParentSquare for resources we've shared, including our new PTO website with important dates, updates, and schoolwide information, as well as the 2026–2027 PTO Events Calendar to help you plan ahead!

Spirit Wear Reminder: The shop closes Monday, August 24—get your orders in before it's too late! We're looking forward to a great year at FES and can't wait to see what we can accomplish together! Game On for Learning!

Congratulations, Mr. Jackson!

We are so thankful to celebrate Mr. Jackson and his incredible 44 years of service to our district and school! Your dedication, commitment, and the impact you've made on countless students and families are truly appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Jackson, for being such a valued part of our school family! We appreciate you!



Franklin Special District Illness Guidelines

The school nurse will assess individuals with symptoms of infectious illness and communicable disease, and they may be excluded until written documentation is provided from a healthcare provider that they are safe to return to the school setting.

Symptom/ Illness	Should NOT attend school	May attend school
Fever	Fever of 100 degrees or greater	Fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication
Cough	Disruptive, persistent, uncontrolled cough Persistent cough should be evaluated by a healthcare provider	Cough is controlled and non-disruptive to the classroom setting
Sore Throat	Sore throat accompanied by fever Evaluation by a healthcare provider is recommended Positive strep throat culture	Fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and resolving symptoms Positive Strep- 24 hours after starting antibiotics and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication
Diarrhea and/or Vomiting	Two or more episodes of diarrhea and/or vomiting occur within 24 hours of school	Free from diarrhea/vomiting for 24 hours, and no fever or additional symptoms have developed
Rash/ Skin Infection	Rash or signs of skin infection not previously diagnosed or seen by a healthcare provider	Rash-free and no other symptoms have developed <u>OR</u> With written documentation from healthcare provider indicating a date for return to school
Conjunctivitis "Pink Eye"	Signs of eye infection such as redness, itching, swelling, discomfort and thick discharge Physician confirmed bacterial conjunctivitis	Free of eye symptoms and no additional symptoms have developed <u>OR</u> With written documentation from healthcare provider indicating a date for return to school If diagnosed with bacterial conjunctivitis, 24 hours after starting treatment
Pediculosis "Head Lice"	Live lice are present	Proof of treatment <u>OR</u> Satisfactory examination by the school nurse

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FRANKLIN Elementary

PTO



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& school news**

FranklinElementaryPTO.org

