



# Cardinal Communication

## Did You Know?

Did you know that our district app has a feature called Ask A Question? If you open the app and scroll to the bottom of the menu you will find the category near the bottom of the list. The feature is provided for anyone who has a question about Felicity-Franklin School District. We try to respond to questions as soon as possible. You can download the district app free of charge on the App Store or Google Play.

## FFA Fall Feast Postponed

The Felicity-Franklin FFA Fall Feast has been postponed to a later date to be determined. We apologize for the inconvenience. We are working to get the Felicity-Franklin Fall Feast rescheduled ASAP. We will share updated information about this event on our website, app, and through district alerts. Stay tuned for more information.



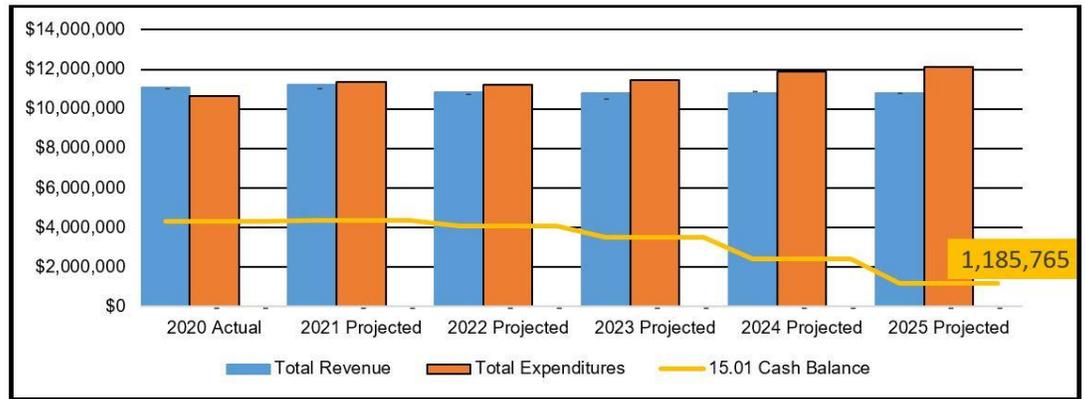
## Welcome New Felicity-Franklin Staff Members!

We would like to welcome the following new staff members for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Connor Stickelman (top, left) is the new High School Social Studies teacher. Connor has degrees from the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University. He enjoys golfing, hiking, and snowboarding. His favorite areas to learn about include Native American history and American political structures and ideologies. Connor looks forward to getting to know everyone this year. Ms. Heather Smith (bottom, left) is a new second grade teacher for Felicity-Franklin Elementary School. This is Heather's third year teaching and her first year at Felicity-Franklin. Ms. Smith loves the small town feel here and how "the staff and parents treat you like family immediately after meeting you". Mr. Joe Morgan (top, center) is the new Middle School/High School Physical Education teacher. Joe was in the Air Force for fifteen years, met his wife while stationed in Ohio, and has two children. Mr. Morgan enjoys introducing the students to new ideas and concepts about health and physical education. Ms. Annie Cummins (top, right) is one of the new second grade teachers at Felicity-Franklin Elementary. Ms. Cummins graduated from

Northern Kentucky University and this is her first year teaching. She loves being with friends and family and going to concerts. Annie states, "I love working here at Felicity because it's such a positive environment. I have a great team with me in second grade. I feel extremely supported also." Ms. Caitlin Leach is the new High School Science teacher. She recently graduated from Miami University and enjoys being outside and being with her dogs. Caitlin is excited to work at Felicity and get to know all of the awesome students that attend here. Mrs. Michelle Dickhaus (second photo, left) is one of the new cafeteria staff members. Michelle has two children. She likes that she can be around her kids and see how they interact with their friends and classmates. Mrs. Jennifer Porter (second photo, right) is also a new cafeteria worker in our district. Jennifer is a mom to "awesome kids". She enjoys watching her children play sports and also likes to draw and craft. When asked what she likes about working in Felicity, Jennifer states, "I think Felicity has a great group of people and amazing students." We are happy to welcome each of these seven new staff members to our Felicity-Franklin Family.

**Community. Innovation. Excellence.**

## Letter from the Treasurer



In the May 2021 Five Year Forecast, it was projected that Felicity Schools will have expenditures greater than revenues in each of the next five years. In FY2025, the last year of the five-year forecast, the district is expected to have a revenue shortfall where expenditures are projected to be greater than revenue by \$1,324,753. Over the past six years we have reduced expenditures to offset future projected revenue deficits, but even with those efforts to reduce spending, it is simply not enough. The district would need to cut its fiscal year 2025 projected expenses by approximately 12% in order to balance its budget without additional revenue. Our cash balance in 2025 is projected to be \$1,185,765, as shown in the gold line in the picture above. This balance is only enough to cover expenditures for one month. The district must take action soon to change the trajectory of this concerning cash balance.

### Local Funding Update

Many of you have read the recent article announcing Zimmer’s intent to close its doors in May of 2022, five

years earlier than planned. Because Zimmer is located in Moscow, it will mostly affect New Richmond and the Grant Career Center’s real property revenue. Felicity Franklin Local School District only receives public utility revenue from Duke Energy Ohio and Duke Energy Zimmer LLC (not real property revenue like New Richmond and Grant).

**“The district must take action soon to change the trajectory of this concerning cash balance.”**

In tax year 2020 we received approximately \$60,000 from these two entities. The Clermont County Auditor won’t know our true effect on public utility revenue until the first week of October when they get PUPP assessments from the state for tax year 2021.

### State Funding Update

Our district receives 76% of its revenue from the state and has been frozen since 2019. In July of 2021 legislators adopted a new state funding formula. The district is still diligently working to understand the complexities

of the new formula as they have changed the philosophy of how schools are funded. Because of this change in the funding formula, we will have a change in both our revenue and our expenditures in the five year forecast in November compared to the past May filing. More to come in November to explain the variances, but current simulations show a \$89,240 increase in revenue for fiscal year 2021-2022. These simulation estimates were based on prior year student enrollment numbers and therefore are subject to change. If the simulations become a reality, it would be good news for the district, but it barely offsets the loss in local public utility funds mentioned above. The district must still do something to combat flat state funding and the loss of public utility funds mentioned above. The district must still do something to combat flat state funding and the loss of public utility revenue that continues to provide financial challenges that make it difficult to offset inflationary expenditure increases.

# Letter from the Treasurer (continued)

## Federal Funding Update

Last year, Felicity Franklin received federal funding during the pandemic to help purchase the additional cleaning supplies, masks, online teachers, sub teachers, etc. that was needed to help us with in-person learning. We are very fortunate that the district has once again received Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) funds to address the impact that Covid-19 has had, and continues to have, on our school. These are funds that were signed into law on March 11, 2021 and are distributed through the state to Ohio's local schools based on population and economically disadvantaged counts. ESSER funds will give schools additional resources to help address the continuity of services for our students and have specific requirements as to what can be purchased, therefore can't be used for

every day expenditures outside of the ESSER guidelines. In addition to tutors, extra cleaning personnel, cleaning equipment, substitute teachers, water fill stations, and cafeteria tables for social distancing; two of the larger items we will be spending these ESSER funds on include the following two facility projects categorized as helping provide cleaner air for our students:

## HVAC Project

In the last Treasurer's update, it was mentioned that our district and TDG, our facilities partner, have been evaluating the condition of our HVAC/chiller/boiler system, which is approximately twenty years old and constantly in need of repairs. Recently a third partner, PlugSmart, brought a grant opportunity to the district that may potentially allow us to replace two out of three chillers. The grant is a

a \$100,311 matching grant through ODSA. We will be using Federal ESSER funds to pay for the remaining project.

## Roof Project

In addition to the HVAC project, we are also planning to do a roof project using federal American Rescue Plan (ESSER) funds. According to the guidelines of ESSER funds, a roof project is an approved continuity of services project. The district recently had the roof evaluated and it was determined that one section of the roof (above our competition gym locker room) needs a complete replacement. The areas of most concern, which will be addressed during this project are the Competition Gym roof, Competition Gym Locker Room Roof, and the Middle School and District Hallway (the oldest section of the district).

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**Congratulations to the  
Felicity-Franklin  
Class of 2021!**

# Looking Back at First Quarter 2021-2022



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# Felicity-Franklin Elementary Summer School

Felicity-Franklin Elementary School Summer School was held from June 7-July 15 on Monday-Thursday. We had 8 teachers and 3 aides to break the groups down and target skills that each student needs. We tracked growth for those areas of need. Students enjoyed incentives for attending and working hard.

Stacey Adams and Morgan Smith worked together with the kindergarten students who were going into first grade. The students and the teachers worked very hard throughout summer school. They really enjoyed it and even after 10 days, we heard from a 1st grade teacher that she had seen so much growth already!



Mrs. Adams' students are working on sounds.



Miss Morgan's group practicing counting cars.

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# Felicity-Franklin Middle School Summer School

## Important Second Quarter Dates

Nov. 1 - No School  
Teachers' Professional Learning Inservice Day

Nov. 2 - No School  
Teachers' Professional Learning Inservice Day

Nov. 4 - EL/MS Parent Teacher Conferences

Nov. 24 – 26 No School  
Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 17 – End of Second Quarter

Dec. 20 – Jan. 2 – No School  
Winter Break

Jan. 3 – School Resumes



## The Dog Days of Summer

By Michelle Turner

The connotation the title might give the reader is that we are really entering that phase of summer that can be considered long, hot and boring! However if you were lucky enough to attend summer school this year in grades 5-8 that is simply not the case! Along with some intense remediation on reading and math skills, students were able to have a blast learning about record breaking accomplishments, including this one pictured, measuring out the world's longest fingernails!

We have been completing crazy amounts of math and READING! Let me tell you about the reading! We have read so many interesting things! We have even had a couple of visitors! One visitor came over from the Felicity Public Library to help explain the Clermont County Summer Reading Program; she even gave us some free books to kick off our reading log!

The other visitor we had is pictured as well. We decided we wanted to change the connotation of "the dog days of summer" into something good. We like to have a positive mindset in middle school. As you can see from the photo we are very happy with our summer day spent with Denver, Mrs. Turner's dog!



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**Felicity-Franklin Local School District**

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**LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*HOME OF THE CARDINALS*

David Gibson, Superintendent  
Christina Laubach, Treasurer