

# Franklin Avenue

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## Upcoming Events

### Virtual PTO Meeting

January 10 @ 6 p.m. Link can be found on our Franklin Avenue webpage

### No School – MLK Jr Day

January 16

### Countdown to Kindergarten

February 8

Happy New Year, Franklin Families,

We are off to a great start in 2023. Students are excited to be back learning and reconnecting with our teachers and friends; our PTO is planning some awesome events for our families; and teachers are preparing for some fun and engaging lessons over the next few weeks. Fourth grade is wrapping up their second Project Lead the Way unit on adaptation where students ultimately designed a prosthetic limb for an animal. Grade Four's collaborative learning with Westfield State University Science Department continues as well. Our third graders are learning about weather and how air masses produce the different weather we experience every day. Mrs. Thielen has invited Ashley Baylor, former meteorologist on WWLP and children's author, to visit third grade. She will share information about her career and her new book, "Storms and Snow, Skis and Sox!" Thanks to a grant from Westfield Foundation for Excellence, all students will be given a copy of this book to take home.

Although we have been experiencing unusually warm weather these winter months, we want to remind families of the following:

1. Teach your child how to zip his/her jacket. This saves us much time in getting ready for recess and dismissal.
2. Pack snow pants and boots in a bag in your child's backpack so they are readily available.
3. Label your child's clothing with his/her name. Our lost and found is overflowing!
4. If you are in need of winter gear, please let us know.

May your 2023 be filled with many opportunities for laughing and learning. I am grateful that I am surrounded by curious, wonderful children and dedicated, amazing staff each and every day. I welcome all that 2023 brings.

My Best

Mrs. Tolpa

## Countdown to Kindergarten February 8

6-7:30 p.m. at WMS

If you know a child who will be turning 5 by September 1, 2023, please encourage the family to attend our Countdown to Kindergarten. Here they will be able to get information and assistance with the registration process. Once a student is registered, caregivers will be contacted by their school for all the events that lead to the first day of kindergarten such as testing, playdates, etc. Thanks for getting the word out to our community.

### **PTO to Meet Virtually, Tuesday, 1/10 @ 6 p.m.**

At this week's meeting, we will discuss the details of our movie night planned for February. We will also set the foundation for our biggest fundraiser of the school year, our on-line FA Auction. If you can contribute ideas, time, or items to any of these events, please join us in the planning. Link: [meet.google.com/nxd-eaqy-vij](https://meet.google.com/nxd-eaqy-vij)

### **Mid-Year Assessments: What are they?**

In education, we use many acronyms that can be confusing to people who are not educators. As we enter our mid-year assessment time, I want to inform you of the different ways we monitor the progress of our students learning.

**DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills):** This assessment is a series of very short tests (1-3 minutes) and will be used to assess all grade K-4 students' foundational reading skills:

- hearing and using sounds (phonemic awareness)
- knowing the sounds of letters and sounding out words (phonics)
- fluent and accurate reading
- vocabulary
- comprehension

**iReady:** This program measures a student's progress on both literacy and math standards and can determine which grade level students are at in learning. These assessments are given to all students K-4. They vary in length depending upon grade level. They are given at the beginning, middle, and end of the year to determine progress.

**AVMR (Add+Vantage Math Recover):** This is a math intervention program where students are assessed throughout the school year and placed in intervention groups to "fill gaps" that may prevent grade level mathematical learning. At Franklin, we have rotating small groups that meet for 8 weeks to focus on specific skills that students are missing. Some areas that are targeted include identifying numbers, counting, understanding grouping and re-grouping, and addition/subtraction/ multiplication/division.

All of these assessments are used to determine what is needed to support students in interventions and enrichment activities. This data is used as evidence when creating academic and behavioral plans and recommending students for a 504 or special education testing.

## HEART

### **Honor**

Build a good reputation

### **Effort**

Give your personal best

### **Attitude**

Be positive and kind

### **Responsibility**

Do your part

### **Teamwork**

Be reliable and help others

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## Thank You

### **PTO**

Your organizing of our Holiday Franklin Family Gathering was awesome. So many people attended, and the kids LOVED it! And thank you Patty Bloniarz and our volunteer parents for organizing our Penguin Patch shopping experience for our students. We appreciate the time you give to make these events happen.

### **Franklin Staff and Community Organizations**

We were able to ensure many of our Franklin Families had a wonderful Christmas thanks to the generous donations of toys and food from WPD Cadets, WSU Athletics, FA staff, local churches and anonymous donors. Ms. Fahey is always instrumental in making sure our families are taken care of.

### **Ms. Fahey & Ms. Ladue**

Thanks to the efforts of our adjustment counselors, Grief Group will once again support our students who have lost family members. If your child has recently lost a family member, please reach out to Ms. Fahey or Ms. Ladue to discuss how this support group can help.