



Cardinal Communication

FFHS Alumni Armed Services

We are looking for information related to alumni of FFHS who honorably served in the military including, the branch of service, uniform pictures, final rank, and/or service locations. We would also like to know about any special recognition, medals, etc. they may have received.

We are also looking for those who may have been unable to graduate due to their military service. Our NHS students have created a presentation that is available on our website under Community Resources. To share information about a FFHS alumni armed services member, please contact the Felicity-Franklin High School Honor Society Adviser Mr. VanHuss by email at: vanhussc@felicityohioschools.org



in this issue

New Partnerships **P.1**

Financial Update **P.2**

Looking Back **P.4**

McClellan Scholarship **P.7**

Thank You, School Board **P.8**

New Partnerships Will Benefit Felicity Students!

The Future Ready Scheduling Fair was held on Thursday, February 2nd. During the scheduling fair, students and their families learned about some exciting new opportunities for students. According to Principal Bob Walker, some new partnerships have been created which will develop more robust employment and collegiate pathways for students. Ohio's College Credit Plus (CCP) can help students earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking college courses from community colleges or universities. Taking a college course from a public college or university College Credit Plus is free. That means no cost for tuition, books, or fees if you attend public school in the state of Ohio. Here is a list of the CCP courses which will be available in our district during the 2023-2024 school year. These CCP courses are available through **Cincinnati State Technical & Community College**: English Composition I, English

Composition II, Introduction to Literature, American History: Early Settlers to 1877, American History: 1877 to Present, Quantitative Reasoning, Statistics I, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus. These CCP courses are available through **Zane State College**: Honors Anatomy & Physiology, College Biology. The following CCP courses are available through **Edison State Community College**: Animal and Plant Sciences, Science and Technology of Food. In the new **2023-2024 FFHS Course Selection Guide**, there is a section with information on available CCP courses and the new Open Campus Privilege for juniors and seniors who are choosing multiple CCPs and may have a complex schedule on/off campus. The purpose of the CCP program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wide variety of options to college-ready students. This program will provide many options for the students at Felicity-Franklin High School.

Community. Innovation. Excellence.

Financial Information

State Funding Update

Ohio is considering legislation that could significantly change the taxation of real estate property. The changes include:

- Reducing the assessment rate from 35% to 31.5% for taxpayers
- Elimination of a 10% tax credit on residential property
- Change in the 2.5% owner occupied tax credit to a flat rate

The proposed legislation will transfer the tax burden from the state to the taxpayer, due to House Bill 920. School districts are negatively affected in the process which causes our district to lose revenue....again. While this is not an exhaustive list of the consequences of House Bill 1, the following list covers significant considerations for school district leadership.

- Bond millage may need to be more
- Current ballot issues in May 2023 may not be adequate, both for operating, permanent improvement or voted debt
- Districts may need to go back to the ballot sooner because of a loss of revenue

“The proposed legislation will transfer the tax burden from the state to the taxpayer, due to House Bill 920. School districts are negatively affected in the process which causes our district to lose revenue....again.”

Our call to action for all community members will be to contact Representative Adam Bird using this link [Contact Adam Bird](#) and/or Senator Terry Johnson [Senator Johnson contact link](#) and express your dissatisfaction with House Bill 1.

Local Funding Update

½ Mill Maintenance Levy & State Match

In 1997 the community passed a bond levy for the construction of the new elementary school. At that time, the community also passed a 25 year, ½ mill maintenance levy to maintain the building. Beginning in 2025, that ½ mill will no longer be collected from the taxpayers and given to the school. The district will lose \$40,000 approximately from the taxpayers. In addition, at the time this levy was passed, the state committed to match the ½ mill, therefore the district will lose another \$40,000 from the state.

*One mill is 1/10 of one penny. One mill produces \$1.00 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

2023 Triennial Update (increased values does not equal increased revenue for the school)

A property tax triennial update is a statistical analysis of the property sales that have occurred in the prior three years. Property values are adjusted upwards or downwards based on a percentage calculated for each marketing neighborhood. Each county conducts its sexennial appraisal and triennial update at different times. Clermont County's triennial update year is 2023. Please remember that although your property value may be increased, and subsequently your tax bill, the school district will not receive any additional taxes that the homeowners will pay. Due to a provision in the Ohio Constitution (House Bill 920) school districts only receive the amount of tax (not rate) that was voted in at the time the levy was passed. Once an amount is determined for a particular levy, the school district will never earn more revenue from that levy. The only exception is when a new home is constructed in that district.

Financial Information

Local Funding Update (continued)

Solar impact

The district contacted the Clermont County Auditor's office to inquire about the potential revenue provided to our school if a solar farm was placed in our district.

Unfortunately, the solar facilities can receive a tax exemption as a qualified energy project; however, if approved, the owner or lessee shall make annual service payments which could provide revenue to the district.

Adversely, once the solar facility is placed on land within our district, an offsetting decrease in real estate tax will be deducted from the district's real estate revenue.

Felicity Schools is in the process of investigating that potential revenue stream and/or deduction of revenue to fully understand the impact.

Grant Funding Update

New ODSA Grant

The district received a new \$98,689 ODSA grant that will continue to improve the status of our aging facility.

The grant will be used to provide Felicity Franklin Schools with a high-efficiency option to replace the existing failing domestic hot water heaters.

The existing hot water system consists of four domestic hot water boilers, of which only one is working.

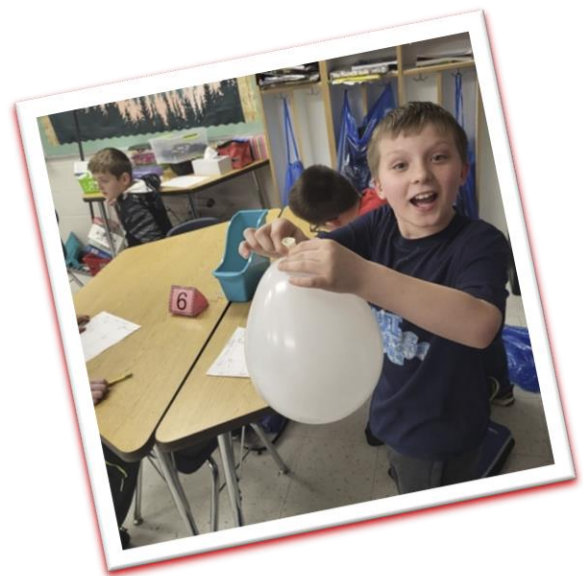
The proposal from our grant partner Ameresco, along with our existing partner TDG Facilities, is to install two new hot water heaters and three storage tanks.

The new system will have a 15–20-year life expectancy.



I
N
F
O
R
M
A
T
I
O
N

Looking Back – It's A Great Day To Be A Cardinal



Looking Back – It's A Great Day To Be A Cardinal



Looking Back – It's A Great Day To Be A Cardinal



Becky McClellan Memorial Scholarship



HealthSource Felicity News

HealthSource Felicity is a school-based health center. It is located at 105 Market Street, Suite 100, at the front entrance of Felicity-Franklin Elementary School. HealthSource Felicity is open to the entire community, not just students and staff of the Felicity-Franklin Schools.

HealthSource Felicity will provide the following medical services: Acute illness and injury treatment, Annual preventive exams, well child checks, sports or work physicals, Asthma and other chronic illness diagnosis and management, Immunizations and vaccinations, Routine lab tests, Medication prescriptions, and Mobile Dental services.

HealthSource accepts most insurance plans including Medicaid and Medicare. For uninsured patients, they offer a discounted sliding fee program, based on income and family size. You can locate and complete the consent form on our district website under the Community Resources section. Call the health center with questions at (513) 429-7330.



During the week of January 30th to February 3rd, the NHS and FCCLA groups teamed up to promote and help organize MC Squared events that raised money for the Becky McClellan Memorial Scholarship. A variety of activities were held including a spirit week contest hosted by the National Honor Society. The NHS students encouraged the students to dress up as the theme each day and shared that the class that showed the most spirit would get to go first at lunch! The spirit days were as follows: January 30th – Hoodie, Jeans & Gym Shoes Day, January 31st – Favorite Movie/Book Character Day, February 1st – Mismatch Clothes Day, February 2nd – Superhero Day (and Becky McClellan's birthday), and February 3rd – Neon Day. Another activity was a 3-on-3 basketball tournament (see photo at top of article)

where all the team and spectator donations benefitted the scholarship. The National Honor Society had a free popcorn and cotton candy booth where donations were collected at the Future Ready Scheduling Fair on February 2nd. Money was also raised from donations collected from a classroom coin war. The FCCLA students made brownies for the classes who filled their buckets with change during a two-week period. The class with the highest amount also received an ice cream sundae to go with their brownies. All these events helped to benefit the Becky McClellan Memorial Scholarship, which in turn will benefit Felicity-Franklin's seniors with college expenses. When the final donation count was in, the students had raised \$747 for the Becky McClellan Memorial Scholarship!



Kindergarten Registration

At Felicity-Franklin Elementary, children who are 5 years of age by August 1, 2023, are eligible to register for kindergarten. Follow the steps below to successfully enroll your child for the 2023-2024 school year. To begin the process, click on: <https://felicity-oh.finalforms.com/>.

Create an account if you are a new user. If you already have an account in FinalForms, please log in and click on "add student". It is very important that you choose the "NEXT YEAR 2023-2024" tab. To complete your child's enrollment, you must bring the following required documents with you on May 10, 2023 from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm to the elementary office. FinalForms needs to be completed before May 10, 2023. Original Birth Certificate (must have raised seal), Social Security Card, Proof of Residence (electric, phone, water bill, or signed lease agreement), Immunization Record, Custody Papers (if applies), Photo ID for parent/guardian. If you have any questions please email Gina McElfresh, Elementary Secretary at mcelfreshg@felicityohioschools.org or call the Felicity-Franklin Elementary office at 513-362-5421.



Thank you, Felicity-Franklin School Board

School board members exemplify local citizen control and decision-making in education. They volunteer hundreds of hours and an immeasurable amount of energy to ensure that our schools are providing the best education possible for the children of our community.

School board members are citizens whose decisions affect our children — what they learn, who will teach them and what kinds of facilities house their classrooms. These are men and women elected to establish the policies that provide the framework for our public schools. They represent you, and they take this responsibility seriously by attending lengthy — sometimes challenging — meetings. Our school board is one of more than 700 such boards across the state. These boards enable us to have local control of public schools, meaning that decisions on school programming are made by local, elected representatives who understand the community's unique problems, values, culture and circumstances. With the advice and counsel of the educational professionals they hire, our school board has an impact on virtually every aspect of our schools. It's a huge responsibility and one that should not be taken lightly. Too often we neglect to recognize the dedication and hard work of these men and women who represent us.

The staff and students of our school district are asking all local citizens to take a moment to tell a school board member "thanks for caring about our children's education." So, thank you to the dedicated men and women who make it possible for local citizens to have a say about education in our communities. We salute the public servants of Felicity Franklin Local Schools whose dedication and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our community possible. We applaud them for their vision and voice to help shape a better tomorrow.

Board Members: Andy Ninichuck - President & Grant Representative (right), Randy McElfresh - Vice President (left), Jenny Broadwell- Student Achievement Liaison (second from left), Sabrina Scharrenberg- Legislative Liaison (middle), Yvonne Baker- Member (second from right)

Cardinal Communication Vol. 2 2022-2023

Felicity-Franklin Local School District

105 Market Street

Felicity, Ohio 45120

www.felicityschools.org



LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOME OF THE CARDINALS

David Gibson, Superintendent
Christina Laubach, Treasurer