



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.

Ohio FFA Officer Candidates!

Congratulations to Bailey Lowe and Kyra Davidson! Both of these ladies are candidates to be Ohio FFA State Officers next year for the office of Reporter. Kyra and Bailey are both guaranteed a spot as a state officer. One will be the State Reporter and the other will be a State Vice President at Large. Congratulations Bailey and Kyra. You will represent Felicity-Franklin very well!



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Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Congratulations to the Felicity-Franklin High School Class of 2020! There are so many memories of the 2019-2020 school year and memories of our wonderful Felicity seniors. We have fond memories from the beginning of the school year and our class of seniors who started the year as the new leaders in our high school. The following is an excerpt from Principal Walker's address that would have been shared with the seniors on graduation day in May. At the beginning of his speech he shares the story of a Felicity man named "Red" McKee, a member of the "greatest generation". Red's life was filled with difficult events that were beyond his control such as living during the Great Depression, and being wounded in the shoulder and in the face during World War II. Despite all of that, Red was a happy and hard-working man. Mr. Walker goes on to discuss this year's seniors - "I cannot help but think about the journey of this class. As they will tell you they were born

around the time of 9/11, during their time in elementary school the world markets suffered the Great Recession, their start to Middle School was marked by the bombing of the Boston Marathon, and by the time they reached High School, the fear and reality of mass shootings had become commonplace. Lastly let us not forget, America's longest war, the war in Afghanistan has spanned their entire lifetime. I wonder what history will come to call this generation a hundred years from now? However, that doesn't matter much, the students I've come to know in this class give me hope, they are the future and they are wise and resilient beyond their years. Seniors, my final piece of advice to you is simple, do not dwell on what you have lost. Rather, take a page from Red's book. Work hard, be patient and kind, live your life and love your life and love those who are in your life to the fullest. Congratulations class of 2020, I wish you all the best in life!"

Community. Innovation. Excellence.

Financial Challenges on the Horizon

This is the most recent financial forecast that was submitted to the Ohio Department of Education in May 2020 by Felicity-Franklin School District.

Forecast Summary

Positive revenue surplus in 2020.

In 2021 we will be spending into our cash balance.

We will continue to spend into our cash balance every year after next year.

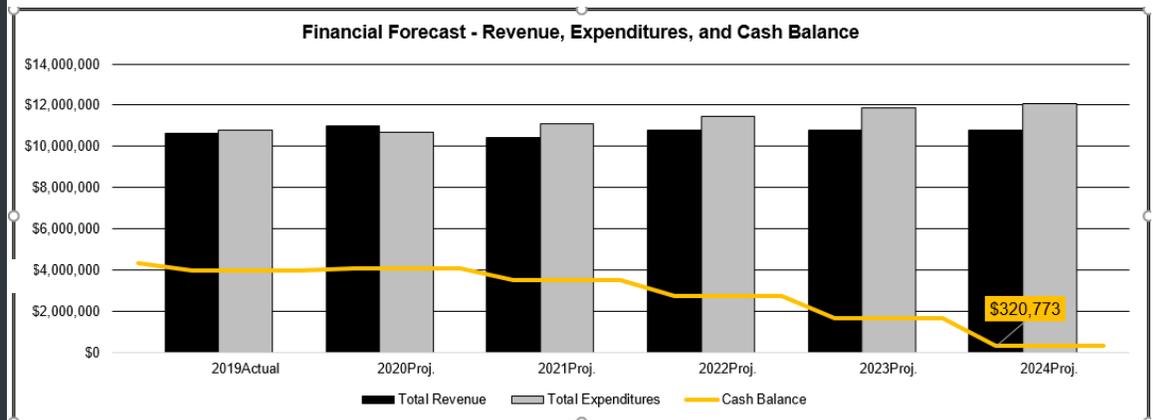
Why is the district showing declining revenue?

Real estate – The district is receiving the least amount of real estate taxes possible and there is very little new construction.

Public utility – This revenue source has caused significant fluctuations over the past few years.

State funding – A 10% reduction in state funding means the district will lose approximately \$778,000 in state funding for next year.

Financial Forecast Update: May 2020



The following information summarizes the May 2020 financial forecast submitted to the Ohio Department of Education, provides insight into why the district is showing declining revenue, and describes what the district is doing to offset those revenue shortfalls.

Graph Highlights:

Felicity Franklin Local School District is forecasting a positive revenue surplus in the current year (2020), but beginning next year with 2021, we will start spending into our cash balance and will continue to do so each year thereafter. A district's cash balance is like the rainy day fund the Governor has mentioned lately. It consists of the cumulative amount of cash left at the end of the fiscal year. This rainy day cash balance is reflected as the negative sloping yellow line in the graph above.

The graph above should also be used to monitor the district's revenue shortfalls. The black bars in the graph depict the revenue the district is forecasted to receive each year from all

sources (state & local). The gray bars show the forecasted expenditures. It is forecasted that this district will have revenues less than expenditures every year, beginning next school year.

“Beginning next year with 2021, we will start spending into our cash balance and will continue to do so each year thereafter.”

Why are we forecasting a revenue shortfall?

Real Estate- The district is currently at the 20 mill floor. We are receiving the least amount of real estate taxes possible and seeing very little new construction in the district to increase this revenue.

Public utility- This revenue source has caused significant fluctuations for the district over the past few years: increases in revenue due to a new switching station, decreases in state funding due to these local increases, then valuation appeals causing reductions and ultimately public utility tax

repayments. The district is currently working with our attorney on legislation related to the public utility issues by which we have been impacted. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, we were hopeful that this legislation could be passed this spring/summer, but we are now unsure of the timing due to the state's budget shortfall.

State funding- Although our funding was frozen for 2020 and 2021, the Governor mandated a further reduction of \$111,000 for May and June due to COVID-19-related impacts to the state. In addition, in an effort to balance the state's budget, the Governor has stated that further reductions to state funding are to come. This forecast has included a 10% reduction in state funding for next year, 2021, which is approximately \$778,000.



What is the District Doing to Reduce Expenditures Below Revenue Estimates?

Salaries & Benefits

Due to retirements and resignations, the district plans to further reduce staffing levels, equivalent to three full-time employees, beginning next year.

Utility Savings

The district has decided to do a lighting project to further reduce utility expenses by approximately \$20,000 per year. To help offset the upfront cost of this project, the district was awarded a \$20,000 grant and is eligible for a \$27,000 rebate.

Capital Purchase Savings

The district is eligible for and has applied for a bus grant that would help purchase a new school bus next year, and would also give the district \$60,000 to help pay for it.

Final Thoughts

and Call to Action

The new state budget will be effective July 2021. Prior to the pandemic, the hope was that the next budget would significantly change the amount of funding given to small/rural districts like Felicity-Franklin. The chance of that happening is most likely small; therefore, the district will need additional local dollars to sustain our valued educational opportunities currently provided to our students.

As good fiscal stewards, administration and the Board of Education will be entering into the levy planning phase and will be scheduling community outreach forums in the near future.

The district is aware of the individual impacts of COVID-19, and we are doing everything we can to make our rainy day fund last as long as it can before asking our community for additional support.

Sadly, we are in a financial position caused by a revenue problem that we can't control. Future expenditure reductions are not significant enough, unless we decrease the number and/or quality of educational opportunities currently made available to our students. Felicity schools may be small, but we are mighty! We are already able to accomplish so much on our shoe-string budget, so our sincere hope is that our community will rally and help us to continue a tradition of excellence.

Financial Challenges on the Horizon

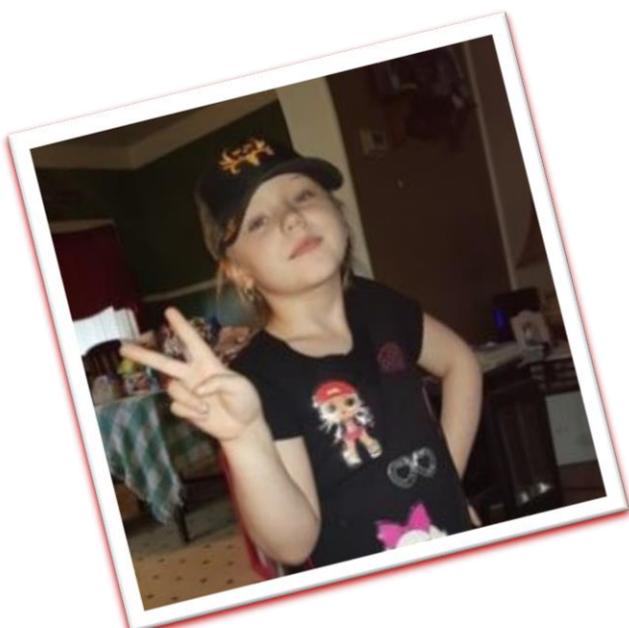
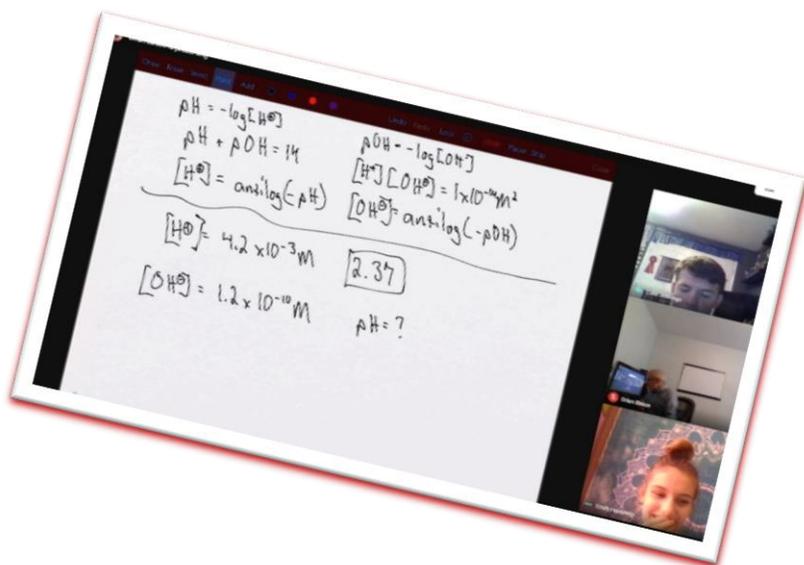
Due to our ongoing revenue challenges and COVID-19 impacts, administration will continue to evaluate potential savings through attrition and other expenditure reduction initiatives. The district has been implementing expense reduction opportunities since 2016 when we first forecasted future revenue challenges, but unfortunately, those opportunities are becoming harder to find.



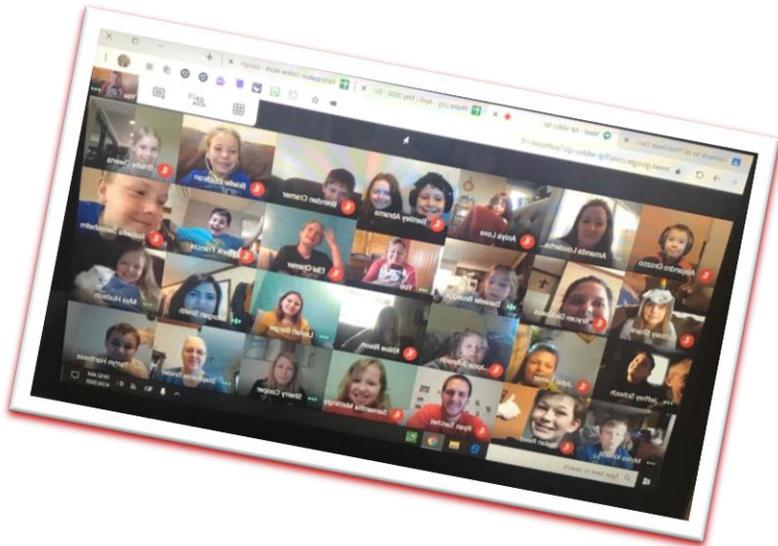
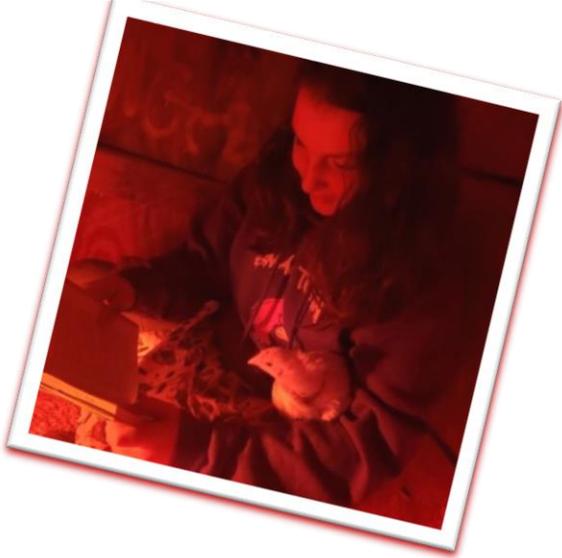
Looking Back - #CardinalStrong



Looking Back - #CardinalStrong



Looking Back - #CardinalStrong



Kindergarten Graduation 2020

Dear Friends,

This is definitely not how I pictured our kindergarten graduation when I met you all in August. Even so, I am very proud of how hard you each have worked and how much you have grown this year. Although I am sad that we didn't get to spend the end of the year together, you will always hold a special place in my heart. I miss you so much and I can't wait until I can squeeze you all as first graders! Enjoy your summer and I will see you soon!



Love you all,
Mrs. Adams



I am so proud of how much you have grown and matured this year. I have loved seeing you make new friends and learn new things. I'm glad I was your teacher, I have come to love you so. I can't believe the end is here, I hate to see you go! I want to thank each one of you for all the memories and learning that we've shared. It has been a wonderful and rewarding year! I will never forget the Kindergarten year of 2020. Good-Luck in First Grade! Congratulations Graduates!

Love,
Mrs. Miller



Hello Friends,

Although we did not end the year like I had hoped for you, I want you to remember the fun memories we had together. Our morning meetings where we could share with our friends, our science experiments where we could make predictions on what might happen next, or cooking in the classroom. I am so glad I was your teacher and had the opportunity to share these memories with you. You have worked so hard this school year and I am proud of each and every one of you with all of your hard work. Each of you hold a special place in my heart. I look forward to seeing you as big first graders next year! Have a great summer!



Love,
Mrs. Stock



Dear Kindergarten Class of 2020,
Congratulations on your graduation! I am so proud of you! Each one of you has accomplished so much this year! You have learned new things and made new friends. You have grown in so many ways and this is only the beginning! First grade is going to be a lot of fun and you will continue to learn and grow. I am so excited for you! Remember to always treat each other with kindness and be the best you can be!

Love,
Mrs. Keller



Congratulations
Felicity-Franklin
Kindergarteners!

Special T-Shirts

To make their Kindergarten graduation special, the PTO bought the students t-shirts that say, "Hello First Grade". When they are available, these special t-shirts will be delivered to the students' homes by some of the Felicity Elementary staff members.

Graduation Video

A special Kindergarten graduation video was created highlighting each Kindergartener in his/her cap sharing what they like to do with photos of the classes during the school year. Each Kindergarten family will receive a CD that includes the graduation video.

Graduate Parade

Next year, we hope to have a school parade of the Kindergarten graduates, wearing their caps and "Hello First Grade" t-shirts.





Summer 2020 Learning Ideas For Students

Learning doesn't need to stop during the summer. Choose from this list of activities that can help students continue their learning throughout the summer months. Read a new book, cook together and have students measure the ingredients, play a board game together, take a family walk, go on a virtual tour of Yellowstone National Park or other national parks, enjoy webcams of whales at the Georgia Aquarium or explore the surface of Mars with NASA's Curiosity rover on Access Mars Google. Have fun together!

Ohio Department of Education Coronavirus Web Page

The Ohio Department of Education has added the following web page which is meant to provide resources for parent and caregivers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus/Ohio%E2%80%99s-Remote-Learning-Resources/Parents-and-Caregivers>

The Ohio Department of Education states that the list is not comprehensive and ODE does not endorse the products and resources listed on the page. The web page states that ODE is "making the list available to support engaging students in learning during the school building closure period. The instructional resources that are found on the page are organized by content. There are resources available in the following content areas: Computer Science, English Language Arts, Financial Literacy, Fine Arts, Literacy, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, STEM, World Languages and Cultures, Career Exploration and Planning, English Learners, Social-Emotional Learning, Early Childhood, Gifted Education, General Resources, and Family Engagement. The appropriate grade levels are listed with each of the resources and products. Many resources are appropriate for grades 3-12, but there are also resources that are listed as appropriate for grades K-12. The resources listed are also available during the summer months.

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Felicity-Franklin Local School District

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LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOME OF THE CARDINALS

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