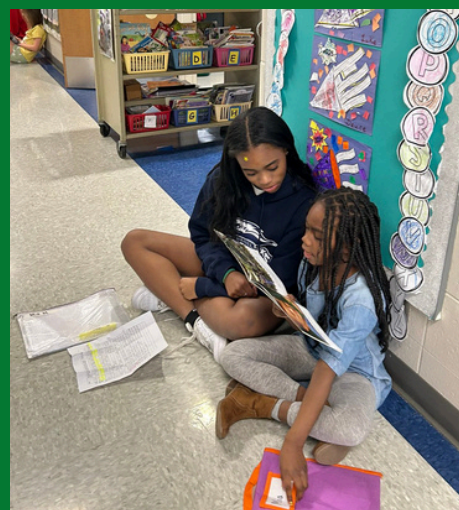
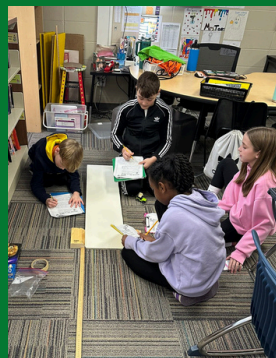


*Spring 2025*





# Message

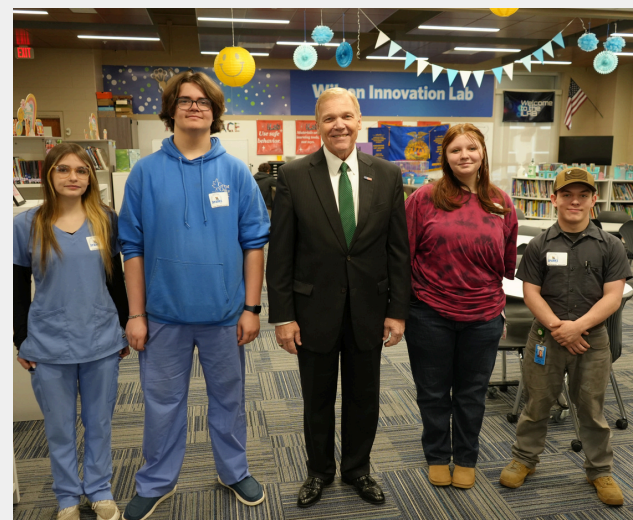
## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The 2024-2025 school year has been filled with invaluable learning experiences, unforgettable memories and countless accomplishments for students across all of Forest Hills School District. I am continually grateful to be part of a school district that has such talented and thoughtful students, hard-working and passionate staff members, and a community that is involved and engaged at every level. We would not be able to deliver some of the highest-rated educational programs in the state of Ohio without everyone working together in the best interest of our students.

In this edition of the FHSD Community Connection, we share timely information about the most critical part of our jobs as educators: delivering a robust, challenging and enriching academic curriculum to all students in our community, regardless of background or ability. We are proud to be ranked among the top school districts in the state of Ohio, and we continue to work hard day in and day out to find ways to improve on that success.

The district's belief that Every Moment Matters helps focus our efforts and reinforce the reality that every action, big or small, has the potential to impact someone else's experience in FHSD. We strive to build connections, embrace ownership, pursue personal growth and help students follow that example in order to create a learning environment where everyone consistently engages in the behaviors that produce great experiences and great outcomes.

We are fortunate to celebrate several impressive student and staff achievements in this publication. While we recognize these accomplishments and look forward to additional celebrations for the Class of 2025, lawmakers in Columbus are working to create the new biennial budget. I encourage you to visit [www.foresthills.edu](http://www.foresthills.edu) to learn more about how the proposals could impact our community by adjusting the current school funding model. Please know that our school district is focused on delivering unmatched academic programs while seeking out ways to reduce costs and improve efficiency across all grade levels and departments.



Sincerely,



**Larry R. Hook**  
**Superintendent**

[larryhook@foresthills.edu](mailto:larryhook@foresthills.edu)  
(513) 231-3600

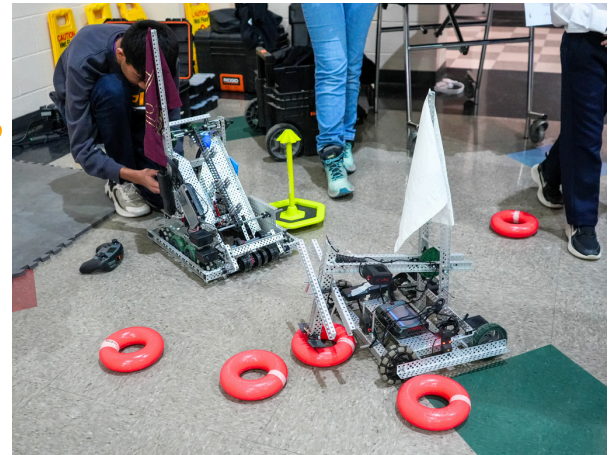


# Exemplifying EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE Every Day

## Top-Rated School District

- Five-Star Overall Rating ★★★★★  
"Significantly Exceeds State Standards"\*
- Top 6.5% Performance Index Score in Ohio   
Measuring Student Academic Achievement\*
- A+ Grade in Academics and Teachers   
8<sup>th</sup> Best District in the Cincinnati Area\*\*

Sources: \*ODEW School Report Cards; \*\*Niche School Rankings



## Rigorous Academics

- 16 Courses of Study  
High Standards for Core Subject Areas
- Extensive AP and College Credit Plus Courses  
Preparing Students to Excel After Graduation
- Personalized Approach to Learning  
Challenging and Supporting Student Growth

## Embodying Our Portrait of a Learner

FHSD's Portrait of a Learner details five key skillsets that the district encourages all learners to strive to embody in their educational journey. By working hard to develop these critical skills, students and adults in the Forest Hills community become better prepared to excel as lifelong learners.

- Critical Thinker
- Empathetic Communicator
- Creative Problem Solver
- Engaged Collaborator
- Adaptable Learner





# Student-Focused Education Where **EVERY MOMENT MATTERS**

In Forest Hills School District, we believe that every individual and every experience is important. The district's efforts to ensure success for all students are rooted in the belief that Every Moment Matters. Each of us has the ability to positively impact those around us and it is important to be mindful of those moments, big and small.

Check out just a few memorable moments from spring 2025!

**SCAN ME!**



FHSD Culture  
Blueprint



Sophomore Leadership Day at Turpin HS allows students to develop skills that help them lead by example to encourage and empower themselves and their peers.



A group of Ayer Falcons cheer on their classmates during the district's annual 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Olympics! All six elementary schools participate in the friendly competition each spring.



Anderson HS teachers and staff line up to celebrate stellar student learners during the school's annual academic pep rally. Students across all grades are recognized during the event!



The Nagel Cheerleading team celebrates after taking home first place in both the Game Day and Traditional Dance routines at the annual Cheer for a Cure event to benefit breast cancer research!



Fifth graders at Mercer Elementary took on a March Madness reading challenge this spring, collectively logging 43,776 minutes of reading! That's more than 700 hours total!



The Sherwood Archers Rappin' Ropes team dazzles fans at the annual Reds Opening Day Parade earlier this year! The students represented Sherwood and FHSD so positively on this big stage!



# *Stellar Staff Members* **EDUCATORS WHO *INSPIRE***



## **Chamber Educator of the Year**

FHSD Preschool Program Intervention Specialist Jody Brandon was selected as the FHSD Educator of the Year for the 2025 Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Program! Jody has served students in FHSD for more than two decades and played an integral role in the district's ability to earn the highest possible rating from the State of Ohio's Step Up to Quality award. Colleagues say Jody "never wavers from keeping the needs of the child topmost in her daily practices." Jody is a passionate and strong advocate for providing an exceptional educational experience for all students, and she works tirelessly to ensure that students with special needs are able to excel in school and are properly supported by school staff.



## **Celebrate Excellence Honoree**

Turpin High School Health Teacher Debbie Nimmo was honored by the Hamilton County Education Foundation as the district's Celebrate Excellence educator of the year. She has helped transform health instruction at Turpin, designing thoughtful, engaging lessons that resonate with students. Debbie also plays a vital role in implementing the Check and Connect program and Sources of Strength campaigns, initiatives that foster mental health awareness and community well-being. Known for her energy, innovation and compassion, Debbie brings positivity to everything she does and truly embodies the Every Moment Matters spirit.

## **Schools Recognize Outstanding 2024-2025 Volunteers**



The educational experience for students simply would not be the same without the passionate involvement of countless parents, guardians and community members who volunteer in schools across FHSD. Each school selected an outstanding volunteer to honor for the 2024-2025 school year. The following individuals were recognized during the April Board of Education meeting: Judy Pavlik (Anderson), Mana Hale (Turpin), Stefanie Brown (Nagel), MegAnn Wolff (Ayer), Kelly Werner (Maddux), Kelly Ruther (Mercer), Kim Davies (Sherwood), Victoria Adamkosky (Summit), and Sarah McGough (Wilson).

FHSD thanks all of its dedicated volunteers for working so hard to support students and create unforgettable experiences.



# Experiential Learning EDUCATION THAT *INNOVATES*

FHSD believes it is critical to help students become future-ready by integrating academic and real-world experiences, encouraging innovation and emphasizing how learning applies even beyond the classroom. The Community Partnership Program works with businesses and organizations throughout the region to connect students with opportunities to explore their interests and learn the skills necessary for success in college, a chosen career field or military service. This spring, students at both high schools were able to explore internships, job shadowing and networking in fields like health care, information technology, business, aviation and more.

Additionally, opportunities like robotics club, thoughtful classroom instruction of artificial intelligence, STEM courses like engineering and computer science, among others, represent the district's commitment to providing an engaging and innovative educational experience to all students. Check out some spring highlights below!



► Internships and Job Shadowing

► Interview Prep and Workshops

► Resume-Building and Networking

► AP and College Credit Plus Courses

► Exploration of Emerging Technologies

► Real-World Learning Opportunities

► Professional Visits to the Classroom



## *Generously Supported by the Forest Hills Foundation for Education*

The Forest Hills Foundation for Education raises money to support a number of programs in the school district, several of which involve STEM topics and valuable professional growth experiences. FHFE has supported items across multiple schools like robotics, 3D printing, LEGO coding, FHSD Parent Academy, Aspire Youth Discovery Initiative (alongside the Bob and Jeanne Coughlin Foundation) and much more. Please visit [www.fhfe.org](http://www.fhfe.org) or scan the QR code to find ways to support the Foundation's efforts. **SCAN ME!**





# FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Forest Hills School District is deeply committed to demonstrating responsible stewardship of public tax dollars, and one of the district’s key focuses of our Strategic Plan is to routinely examine current practices to find ways to increase operational efficiency. One strong example of that commitment is represented by the fact that, despite inflationary increases to a variety of costs in recent years, FHSD continues to operate at a significantly lower overall cost per pupil than the average school district in Hamilton County. This is a testament to the collective efforts of staff and administrators who constantly look for ways to lower costs and operate programs more efficiently.

The district also recognizes the importance of being open and transparent about financial operations and planning so the community can be properly informed about the ongoing investment taxpayers make in our schools. By providing monthly reports at public Board of Education Meetings, which are summarized and shared on the district’s website and social media channels, as well as participation in online tools like the Ohio Checkbook, FHSD is proactive in sharing important financial information with our community.

FHSD will continue these efforts to look for ways to reduce costs and operate more efficiently. This is an ongoing process that the district practices each and every year, focused on providing the best possible education at a reasonable cost.

## 74 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR SPENT IN CLASSROOMS



Forest Hills.....73.6%  
 Hamilton County Average.....69.77%  
 Ohio Average.....66.9%

Source: ODEW Report Cards FY24



FHSD’s participation in the Ohio Checkbook, in partnership with the State Treasurer, offers one more avenue for residents to see how tax dollars are being spent to serve students and the community.

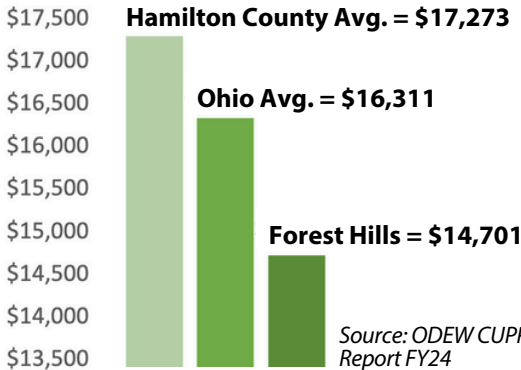


FHSD received the Auditor of State award in March 2025 to recognize the district’s “clean” audit report and effective financial practices.



**Alana Cropper**  
 Treasurer, CFO  
 alanacropper@foresthills.edu  
 (513) 231-3600

## FHSD Spends \$2,500 Less Per Pupil Than Hamilton County Avg.



## ABOVE-AVERAGE RESULTS BELOW-AVERAGE COST

BELOW-AVERAGE COST PER PUPIL ✓  
 MORE MONEY IN THE CLASSROOM ✓  
 ABOVE-AVERAGE PERFORMANCE ✓





ENGAGE • EMPOWER • EXCEL

Communications Department  
7946 Beechmont Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45255

**Anderson**  
High School  
• Forest Hills School District •  
ENGAGE • EMPOWER • EXCEL

**Ayer**  
Elementary School  
• Forest Hills School District •  
ENGAGE • EMPOWER • EXCEL

**Maddux**  
Elementary School  
• Forest Hills School District •  
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**Mercer**  
Elementary School  
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**Nagel**  
Middle School  
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**Sherwood**  
Elementary School  
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**Turpin**  
High School  
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**Wilson**  
Elementary School  
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## LAST CALL FOR KINDERGARTEN!



## REGISTER NOW FOR 2025-2026



MORE INFORMATION

SCAN OR VISIT

[www.foresthills.edu/kindergarten](http://www.foresthills.edu/kindergarten)



## SUPERHEROES NEEDED NO CAPE REQUIRED

### CURRENTLY HIRING

Scan the QR code or visit  
our website for more  
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Flexible Hours • Competitive Pay • Job Satisfaction

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAY 21**

### Board of Education Meeting

6:30 p.m., Mercer Elementary School  
2600 Bartels Road

**MAY 24**

### High School Graduation

THS at 10 a.m. & AHS at 3 p.m.

NKU's Truist Arena

500 Louie B Nunn Dr, Highland Heights, KY

**MAY 26**

### Memorial Day - No School

**MAY 30**

### Last School Day for Students

**JUNE 25**

### Board of Education Meeting

6:30 p.m., Mercer Elementary School  
2600 Bartels Road

**JULY 4**

### Anderson Township Independence Day Parade

# ENGAGE • EMPOWER • EXCEL