

Summer 2023



Message

From Mr. Hook



Larry R. Hook
Superintendent
larryhook@foresthills.edu
(513) 231-3600

The 2022-2023 school year is officially complete and I am so grateful for the hard work and dedication of our students and staff. We finished the school year on a strong and positive note, continuing a long tradition of academic excellence and passionate learning.

After closing out my first full year as superintendent of this outstanding school district, I am filled with energy for the future and an eagerness to discover what we can achieve next together. A school district is only as good as the students, staff and community that work together to support this most important educational mission. Here in Forest Hills, we are fortunate to have outstanding students, the very best teachers and staff, and a community that steps up in so many ways to make our success possible.

Students in Forest Hills benefited this year from field trips to the Anderson Center to learn about government, history and public service. They got the chance to explore nature and physical activities in the wonderful parks and outdoor spaces across our area. Community organizations and businesses stepped up time and time again to offer employment, internships, advice or a helping hand to our students. The Forest Hills Foundation for Education sees support from across Anderson Township and the Village of Newtown to help make innovative, creative and constructive learning opportunities possible for students of all ages.

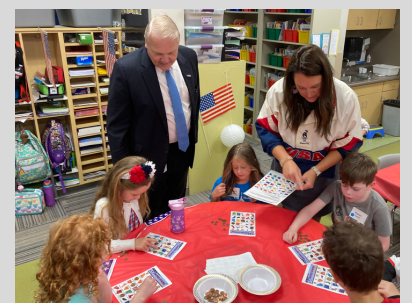


Forest Hills School District also ends this year in a better financial position thanks to the support of voters on May 2, 2023. The 6.9 mill combination levy passed, generating stable funding for the existing programs and offerings that make this school district shine. Thank you to everyone who shared their voice. I take this responsibility seriously and remain committed to operating FHSD efficiently and effectively. We are implementing \$750,000 in reductions this summer that will help this levy stretch further into the future and I will continue to look for creative ways to reduce costs while providing an unmatched level of education.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Hook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE: CLASS OF 2023

Forest Hills School District served more than 7,100 students during the 2022-2023 school year. These dedicated, hard-working learners are the most important part of the school community. The district congratulates each and every student on completing a successful school year.

Anderson and Turpin High Schools celebrated 592 total graduates from the class of 2023, who are well-prepared to embark on the next steps of their life journey—representing FHSD in various careers, colleges across the country and military service.

The Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Carter Flora of THS (left photo) and Sam Mizukawa of AHS (right photo) as the respective "Students of the Year" in March. This recognizes their stellar academic and personal achievements.



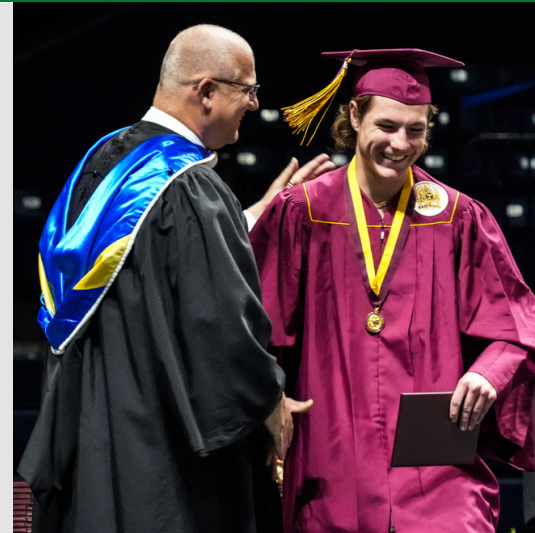
AHS student Jacob Weir was selected for the first-ever Teva Rae Ladd Scholarship in May. This is in honor of Teva, an AHS graduate who passed away in the Who concert disaster of 1978.



Talley Diaz, a Turpin High School student, was awarded a college scholarship from the Exchange Club of Eastern Hills in April. This group is dedicated to work that supports youth in the community.

592
CLASS OF 2023
GRADUATES

\$6.1
million
SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS



223
HONORS
DIPLOMA
RECIPIENTS

Staff Members Earn Community Honors



Beth Gifford, an ELA teacher at Turpin, was selected in May as an honoree at the Celebrate Excellence award ceremony. The Hamilton County Education Foundation recognized Gifford for being a "remarkable, innovative, caring educator." She has been in education for 27 years and Bengals legend and Professional Football Hall of Famer Anthony Munoz presented Gifford with her honor.



Jeff Rodriguez (left photo, right side), a physics, robotics and engineering teacher at Anderson, was honored as the Teacher of the Year by the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce in March. He's retiring this year after more than 30 years with FHSD.



Lori Trent (right photo, middle left), a 2nd grade teacher at Ayer, was nominated for the Ohio Teacher of the Year program. She was recognized for her amazing work as an educator and her efforts to build strong relationships with students and families.

New Safety Measures Coming to Forest Hills

Work begins during summer break to strengthen multiple security points

Forest Hills School District is preparing to implement multiple new safety measures across all nine school buildings. The district received more than \$600,000 in competitive grant funding to help pay for security upgrades through Ohio's K-12 School Safety Grant Program.

The district worked with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office to review current safety measures and determine what areas would benefit most through potential grant funding. In the grant application, FHSD identified upgrades to school surveillance systems and strengthening entryway security as two target areas. Improvements in both areas are scheduled to start this summer.



Improvements are coming to surveillance systems like the one pictured here at Nagel Middle School.



Community Partnership Program Wraps Up Successful First Semester

Students explore medicine, construction, law and much more

More than 100 students from Anderson High School and Turpin High School participated in a wide variety of activities through the newly revamped Community Partnership Program during the spring semester. The program is designed to offer hands-on experiences for students outside the classroom and in career fields they find interesting. Depending on the industry, students are able to pursue internships, shadowing opportunities or workshops.

OrthoCincy Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine and The Christ Hospital Health Network, as FHSD's official sports medicine and wellness partners, offered in-depth internships that covered a variety of medical and health care careers. This allowed students to see, first-hand, what it's like working in different medical fields and learn about the skills required to succeed in these important industries.

The Community Partnership Program encourages students to get involved in shaping their own experiences. Christina Johnson, AHS rising senior, was able to secure a nationwide fellowship through Project InSight. This allows her to connect with organizations that specialize in vision and eye health, like Cloverbrook Center For The Blind and Visually Impaired and May We Help. Christina will continue this work over the summer, building on her passion for medical technology and engineering.

Other students were able to learn about law, aviation, construction, law enforcement and more. The program will continue in the fall with similar opportunities, as well as the Aspire: Youth Discovery Initiative. This is a new leadership development program for sophomores made possible by an expanded partnership with the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce.



Students participate in a simulation lab at The Christ Hospital (top). Students observe a medical demonstration with OrthoCincy (bottom).



FHSD students participate in Construction Career Day, organized by Allied Construction Industries.



A group of AHS and THS students visit UC College of Law to observe a session of the Ohio Supreme Court.

A volunteer panel discusses job interview advice with students in March.

FH5K Connects Community, Supports Students



**FOREST HILLS
FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION**

More than 2,600 people participated in the 14th annual FH5K this May, with an estimated 3,000 people turning out to participate, watch the race or join in on the festivities afterwards!

The Forest Hills Foundation for Education and FHSD thank all the volunteers who spent countless hours organizing the event and making it a fun, student-focused day that brought the entire community together. Dozens of local organizations participated in the after-party, and many more supported the event through donations, volunteering and much more.

All of the money raised during the event goes directly to programs that promote the social, physical, behavioral and intellectual well-being of students in Forest Hills School District.

Visit fhfe.org to learn more and donate!



SAVE THE DATE

October 13, 2023

Distinguished Alumni Luncheon

*Submit nominations at fhfe.org/distinguished-alumni-nomination/

November 11, 2023

FHFE Fall Soiree

Schools Recognize Outstanding Volunteers for 2022-2023

Each school in FHSD selected an outstanding volunteer to honor for the 2022-2023 school year. The following individuals were recognized during the April Board of Education meeting: Tracy Huebner (Anderson), Karen Thorp (Turpin), Colleen Berliner (Nagel), Brandi Lairmore (Ayer), Alex Spanogians (Maddux), Elizabeth Bevacqua (Mercer), Katie Halpin (Sherwood), Alison Mendralski (Summit) and Tracy Pappenheimer (Wilson). FHSD thanks all of its dedicated volunteers for working so hard to support students and create unforgettable experiences.



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

At Forest Hills School District, we understand the responsibility we have to taxpayers, students, staff and the entire community to operate in a financially sound manner. We work tirelessly to do everything we can to be strong stewards of public funds and, as Treasurer, I appreciate the importance of being transparent about district finances. Part of our efforts to meet those expectations include FHSD's participation in the Ohio Checkbook and regular reports to the community via Board of Education meetings and publications like this.

With the passage of the combination levy on May 2, 2023, it's all the more important to be clear about how the district plans to utilize those new funds and how it helps FHSD accomplish its mission to prepare the next generation for success now and after graduation.

The 5.4 mill operating levy can be used for any general purpose related to the operation of the district, including staff salaries, classroom supplies and other day-to-day expenses. The 1.5 mill permanent improvement levy is required by law to only be spent on properties, assets or improvements with an estimated life or usefulness of five years or more (building updates, roofs, parking lots, heating and cooling systems, or new buses or technology).

In May, I published an update to the current five-year forecast, which looks at the district's General Fund revenues, expenditures and cash balance. With the community's support through this additional funding, the forecast now projects a nearly \$17 million ending cash balance in fiscal year 2027. Costs, however, are still projected to increase year-over-year, which could lead to deficit spending as early as fiscal year 2026.

FHSD will continue to look for ways to reduce costs and increase operational efficiencies to ensure this investment from the community is stretched as many years as possible. This is an ongoing process that the district practices each and every year, focused on providing the best possible education at a reasonable cost.

Sincerely,

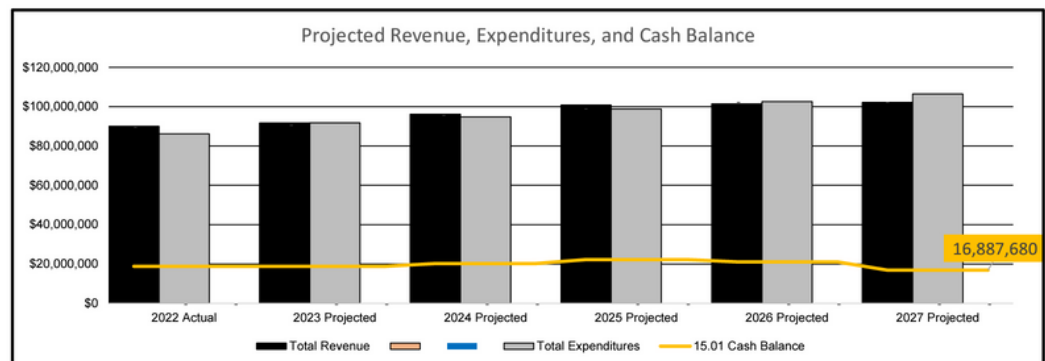
Alana



Alana Cropper
Treasurer, CFO

alanacropper@foresthills.edu
(513) 231-3600

FHSD Five-Year Forecast Summary May 2023 Update*



*Note: The Five-Year Forecast includes General Fund data only.



FHSD once again received the coveted Auditor of State award in February 2023 to recognize effective financial practices.



By participating in the Ohio Checkbook, in partnership with the State Treasurer, FHSD provides another avenue for residents to see how tax dollars are being spent to serve students and the community.

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Summer LEARNING HUB

bit.ly/FHSDsummer

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 28

Board of Education Meeting
6:30 p.m., Mercer Elementary School
2600 Bartels Road

JULY 19

Board of Education Meeting
6:30 p.m., Mercer Elementary School
2600 Bartels Road

AUGUST 16

Board of Education Meeting
6:30 p.m., Mercer Elementary School
2600 Bartels Road

AUGUST 17

First Day of School
Last Names A-L ONLY

AUGUST 18

First Day of School
Last Names M-Z ONLY

AUGUST 21

All Students Report

STAY CONNECTED

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Forest Hills School District



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