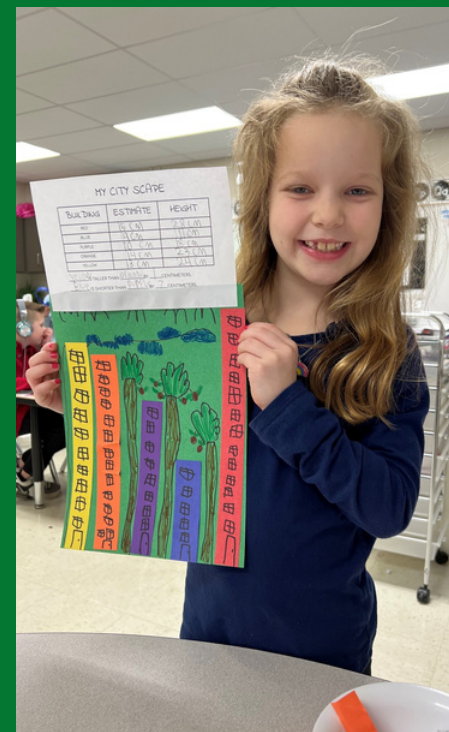
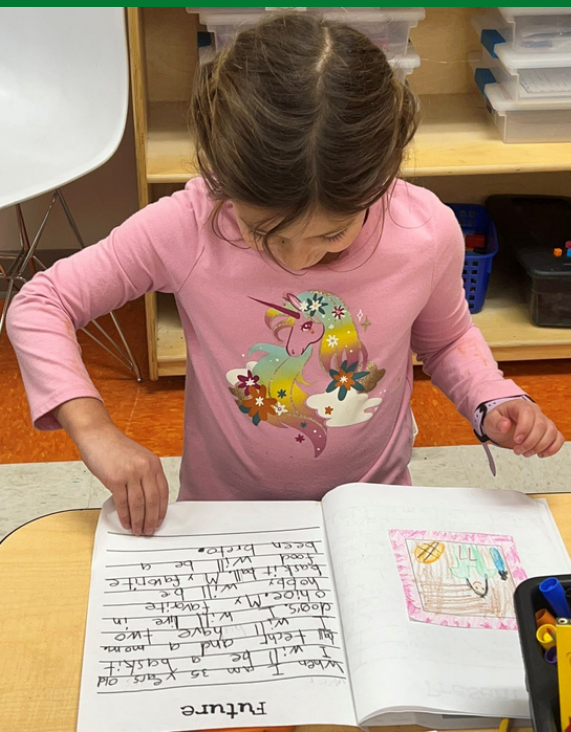


COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Winter 2023



Message

From Mr. Hook



Larry R. Hook
Superintendent

larryhook@foresthills.edu
(513) 231-3600

Forest Hills School District is continuing our strong tradition of academic excellence this school year. Even as we engage our community in important financial discussions, FHSD is putting our entire focus on what's best for students. Our goal and priority is to provide the best possible education to help students succeed in and out of the classroom.

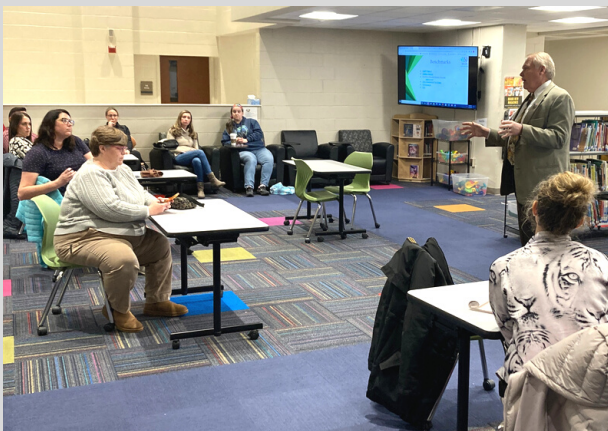
Our new Parent Academy series is an important way FHSD is listening to parents and guardians to provide more information, assistance and resources on the topics you care about when it comes to your child. We want to work with parents to help each student do their absolute best.

We have also rolled out a revamped version of our Community Partnership Program, which will give students unmatched opportunities to learn about careers and options that await after a successful Forest Hills education.

As I mentioned, we are also in the midst of financial discussions as the May 2, 2023 combination levy vote approaches. In order to operate as efficiently as possible, and to attempt to lower the millage for the upcoming levy, FHSD will make approximately \$750,000 in reductions at the end of this school year. I also presented information at February's Board of Education meeting on an additional \$1.6 million in cuts that will be necessary if the May levy does not pass. I hope you will visit www.foresthills.edu/levy.html to learn more.

Sincerely,

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



STUDENTS SHOW-OFF SMARTS AT SCIENCE FAIR & INNOVATION EXPO

Nearly 350 students took part in FHSD's annual Science Fair and Innovation Expo in January to display their curiosity, creativity and scientific skills.

The Science Fair is open to students in grades 5-12 and offers a more formal opportunity to utilize the scientific process. Students select a question about a scientific topic they are curious about and want to investigate through experimentation. The Innovation Expo is open to all students in kindergarten through 12th grade. It allows students to present interest-based projects incorporating arts, sciences and design thinking.

The 2023 Science Fair and Innovation Expo had 347 participating students and was fortunate to have 106 total judges who volunteered their time to provide feedback to students. The event is made possible by the generous support of the Forest Hills Foundation for Education.



60+
STUDENTS
INVOLVED



Data, logistics and statistics shadowing experience with Stridas LLC.

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS
OFFER VALUABLE
HANDS-ON LEARNING
EXPERIENCES**

27
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

→ **FHSD is rolling out a revamped Community Partnership Program** this spring. The updated approach and format are intentionally designed to offer valuable, hands-on experiences for students. The program will also serve as a strong connection between the school district and many valuable community partners.

Other local businesses and organizations from a variety of industries have generously offered to work with FHSD to offer valuable learning experiences to high school students. There are representatives from fields like medicine, engineering, architecture, law, nonprofits, small business and more.

3
UNIQUE
PATHWAYS

Students will be able to participate in internships, shadowing experiences and a variety of formal workshops with businesses and organizations across different industries. The district's new sports medicine and wellness partnership includes formal, eight-week student internships with OrthoCincy Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine and The Christ Hospital Health Network.

The goal is to allow students to grow in their professional skills, experience new challenges and discover their interests and passions. Students will also get the chance to prepare for college, a career or the military and receive invaluable mentorship and feedback from leaders in their field of interest. Additionally, local business partners have a chance to inspire the next generation of the workforce.

"Step Into Wellness" at the FH5K

Saturday, May 13, 2023

You have an opportunity to directly support the well-being of more than 7,500 students at one of the largest annual Anderson Township events, which reaches 3,000+ community members.

Join us as we "Step Into Wellness" at the 14th annual Forest Hills 5K hosted by the Forest Hills Foundation.

Students are at the heart of the Foundation's vision and mission. Our goal is to be an additional resource to all students, in all schools, as they advance through the school district and beyond.

The FH5K creates a bridge between businesses, community partners and funders to teachers and administration, all for the benefit of students.

Help us have another record-breaking year by raising more than \$125,000 as we continue to support an additional Child Focus therapist—removing a barrier for students seeking crucial mental health support. More than \$100,000 was awarded in Teacher Grants in October impacting 5,400 students along with innovative STEM experiences for K-12 students.

For over a decade, the Forest Hills Foundation has raised more than \$2.4 million—but our work doesn't stop here. We recognize that education is a fluid, ever-evolving space and our goal is to be the spark that keeps the Forest Hills School District a thought leader in Ohio.

"I love how the 5K brings the whole community together, supports students and promotes overall wellness. After the race, everyone can celebrate their accomplishments by attending the After-Party as you socialize, play games at business booths and eat some great food." -Gracie Helbig, 7th Grader



LEARN MORE



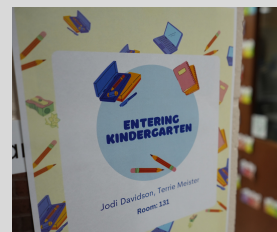
EDUCATORS, FAMILIES TACKLE IMPORTANT TOPICS AT FHSD PARENT ACADEMY

Final session in March will close out the inaugural series for 22-23

New this school year, Forest Hills has organized a series of Parent Academy nights to offer opportunities for families to meet with teachers, administrators and community leaders on a variety of topics.

The events in November, January and February each had a unique set of sessions that were based on feedback and requests from attendees, covering everything from reading skills, adolescent mental health, college preparedness, vaping/drug use and much more.

The final event for this year will be held on March 20 at Nagel Middle School.



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Treasurer's Office of Forest Hills School District works diligently to ensure operations are efficient and fiscally responsible. We realize and appreciate the obligation we have to taxpayers to be strong stewards of public funds. Our efforts to honor that responsibility include FHSD's participation in the Ohio Checkbook and our regular recognition with the Auditor of State Award for effective financial practices, which the district received again in February.

Those efforts do not change the reality of school funding in Ohio, which forces districts to turn to voters for additional funding every few years. State law does not allow school funding measures to account for inflation—so as costs increase for things like supplies, gasoline, diesel fuel, maintenance and other yearly expenses, the district's revenue stays at the same level. That is part of the reason the Board of Education approved a 6.9 mill combination levy for the May 2, 2023 ballot.

This includes a 5.4 mill operating levy and a 1.5 mill permanent improvement levy. By law, the operating levy funds can be used for any general purpose related to the operation of the district. The permanent improvement levy funds can be used for any property, asset or improvement 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). It's important to note that the levy will only maintain similar levels of staffing and programs at Forest Hills. It does not provide for any additional staff, extracurricular activities or courses, but the permanent improvement levy will allow the district to start chipping away at the most critical facility needs.

For more information about the combination levy, please visit www.foresthills.edu/levy.html.



Alana Cropper
Treasurer, CFO

alanacropper@foresthills.edu
(513) 231-3600

Hamilton County School Performance Index

1) Mariemont	107.9
2) Madeira	105.9
3) Indian Hill	104.3
4) Sycamore	104.0
5) Wyoming	103.3
6) Forest Hills	100.0
7) Loveland	99.4
8) Three Rivers	90.5
9) Oak Hills	90.2
10) Southwest	86.1
County Average	81.2
11) Deer Park	80.5
12) Reading	77.5
13) Norwood	76.3
14) Princeton	74.5
15) St. Bernard	73.3
16) Northwest	71.9
17) Finneytown	67.2
18) Cincinnati	60.2
19) Winton Woods	59.0
20) N College Hill	53.6
21) Mount Healthy	52.6
22) Lockland	48.3

Source: ODE Report Cards FY22

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

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

74 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR SPENT IN CLASSROOMS



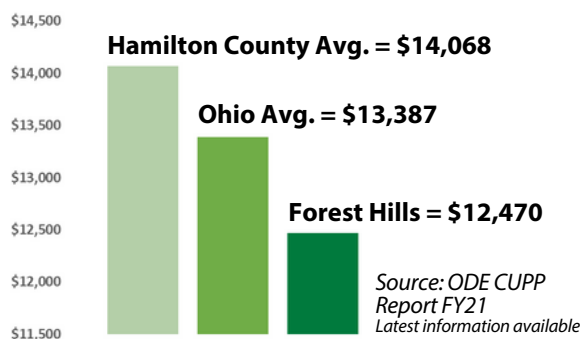
Forest Hills.....	74.0%
Hamilton County Average.....	72.36%
Ohio Average.....	68.1%

Source: ODE Report Cards FY22

Sincerely,

Alana

FHSD Spends \$1,600 Less Per Pupil Than Hamilton County Avg.



FHSD's BELOW AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE

Hamilton County Average	Forest Hills
43.66	38.89

Source: Hamilton Co. Auditor Tax Year 22/Collection Year 23

What Will the Levy Cost?

Home Value	Cost per Month
\$100,000	\$20.13
\$200,000	\$40.26
\$300,000	\$60.39



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UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 15

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

MARCH 20

FHSD Parent Academy
6:30 p.m., Nagel Middle School
1500 Nagel Road

APRIL 3-7

No School, Spring Break

APRIL 19

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

MAY 13

Forest Hills 5K
8:30 a.m., Nagel Middle School
1500 Nagel Road