

## **Superintendent's August 2018 Cadet Communicator**

It is almost time to launch the 2018-2019 school year at Fort Frye Local Schools, and we are very excited to welcome our returning Cadets as well as our new students! We also extend a warm welcome to a couple of new staff members in the district!

Fort Frye Local Schools continues to make academic gains in many of its academic subject areas as measured by the Ohio Department of Education. Standardized test scores as measured by the AIR assessments showed improvement in many areas. The district continues to emphasize literacy instruction in all of our subject areas, and most of our teachers will be participating in the Write Tools specialized writing training before school starts.

As usual, our summer months were filled with building cleaning and some facility upgrades, which include maintenance of things such as some electrical, water, plumbing, and heating/cooling systems, and fresh paint in areas where it is needed as well additional and/or upgraded security cameras in some locations for safety purposes. A new phone system was installed throughout all of our schools to allow each classroom to have external and internal communications capabilities, a very important safety feature in the event of a crisis. However, the telephone system is set up so that classrooms cannot be disrupted during the school day from external callers.

School safety continues to be a top priority for our school system! Fort Frye Local Schools continues to collaborate with the Washington County Sheriff's Department to carry out a safety audit of our schools. Our staff members will be trained on our Emergency Operations Plan that has been approved by the Office of Homeland Security. This school year, our district will be utilizing some of the resources available through the Sandy Hook Promise that focus on school and community safety. Specifically, these resources focus on teaching youth and adults on how to identify, intervene and get help for individuals before they hurt themselves or others. Our staff will also receive training on how to provide some medical assistance in a crisis situation before first responders arrive. However, our community and families play a very important role in school safety. It is important that safety concerns and unusual and/or alarming student situations be reported to the school so that they can be investigated and addressed if necessary. Families, students, and community members can anonymously report school safety issues, include suspected incidents of bullying, to this safety tip line: 1-855-652-6963. I urge families to maintain this telephone number throughout the school year so that you can provide information that may be critical to our schools' safety!

If there is an emergency situation where families need to be notified during the school year, the school will use our Infinite Campus messenger system to mass communicate to our families. This includes a robocall, email, and text alert. It is very, very important that all families update their demographic information so that we have accurate data in our system that includes the correct family address, telephone number(s) for telephone calls and texts, and email addresses. We also communicate emergency information on our Facebook and Twitter accounts provided here.

Many of our families depend on school bus transportation to ensure that their children make it to and from school safely each day. Our bus and van fleet have passed the annual State Highway Patrol

inspection, and the district traded in two school buses for brand new models that will be used on some of our longer bus routes. Bus routing information is enclosed in this mailing for families that have signed-up for transportation. If you still need to request transportation services, please contact Erin Lockhart at 740-984-2497 Ext. 2304.

This Cadet Communicator has lots of information about the programming and services planned for the upcoming school year! We hope you find this informative, and we look forward to seeing all of our students back in the buildings on Thursday, August 23. I hope everyone has a fabulous 2018-2019 school year! Let's go Cadets!