

Superintendent's Message Spring 2018

~Dr. Stephanie D. Starcher

We can celebrate that spring is only a few weeks away. Wow! It has been an interesting season of winter weather with snow and ice storms and frequent flooding. The severe and quick changes in weather have made it even more difficult to make decisions about school delays, early dismissals, and closings. Sometimes, there is a weather situation that impacts only a very small area of our district so that we are still able to have school. For example, we experienced one school day where there were less than 10 families that we could not reach through re-routing our buses due to high waters so we excused those students since almost all other students could attend.

Our students' families have been absolutely wonderful in collaborating with our transportation department to ensure the safety of our students to and from school. We appreciate the communication we receive from families about road closures and the willingness of so many families to meet us at a centralized location in those instances when a bus may be running late due to inclement weather or a road has been closed.

As of March 5, Fort Frye Local Schools have been closed 9 days due to inclement weather. The students begin making up these missed days after day 8, and we have already made up one day. If there are further school closing days, the make-up dates are set for April 3 and May 29, 30, and 31.

The Board of Education has partnered with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to review a long-term plan for our aging school facilities. This does not mean that Fort Frye Local Schools are pursuing "new" school(s). What it does mean is that we are going to have a professional assessment of our buildings to determine all the various options for maintaining appropriate learning environments for decades to come. Options can include maintenance of current facilities, reconfiguration and/or renovation of one or more facility, and/or exploring the option of a new building (s). The purpose of this process is to not only assess and determine our options as a district in light of our financial status, but to also get input from our community about how our current buildings meet the needs of our students and what ideas these stakeholders have for long-term education facilities.

Enclosed in this third-nine-weeks publication you will find articles related to many programs and activities offered at The Fort! I hope you find the Cadet Communicator informative! Let's go Cadets!