

## *Leadership Franklin extended to youth*

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce offers an annual program to help people develop leadership skills titled Leadership Franklin. The program is offered to adults, but now the program will extend to high school students.

Crystal Smith of the Franklin County Cooperative Extension in conjunction with both the Chamber of Commerce and Franklin County Schools' Career and Technical Education Director Laureen Jones will launch the new program this fall.

"Civic education is very important, and this is a perfect

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### **Look Inside!**

**Read about Bunn Middle's Kristen Hensley's trip to Belgium on page 8.**

## **\$53.3 Million Bond**



The biggest part of the money that would come from the school bond would be funding for a new Franklinton High School. The current school, pictured above, would be used for a middle school once vacated. If the bond passes, a new FHS could be ready by the fall of 2011.

### **Bond Would Fund A New FHS, As Well As Projects At Most Other FCS Campuses**

**A**s the population of Franklin County grows rapidly, the need for school facilities increases just as quickly. With those school needs, a source for funding comes. The latest proposed source for \$53.3 million

worth of improvements is through a school bond. Franklin County Commissioners voted August 27th to put a \$53.3 million bond on the May 6th, 2008 ballot — the public is encouraged to voice its opinion

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# The FCS Appeal



State Representative Lucy Allen and LES Principal William Harris greet new teachers to FCS during new teacher orientation in August.

## Teacher Retention Continues To Climb

Keeping teachers in Franklin County is a priority for the Franklin County Schools' administration, and a host of new programs are leading to a much higher teacher retention rate.

There's been a big focus on retaining new teachers in the past three years, and through the efforts of the FCS Human Resource Department, new teachers are now staying in the system longer.

In 2004, there were 107 beginning teachers hired in Franklin County, and that number has steadily declined by more than 50 percent over the past three years. This year, there were just 45 first-year teachers

hired in the county - meaning more teachers are retaining their jobs.

"We've had a big improvement each year, and the most satisfying part is what it will do for students," FCS Beginning Teacher and Mentor Coordinator Judy Lassiter said. "Continuity has big impact on student performance."

There were 60 teachers who attended FCS Teacher Orientation last week, and 30 of those have taught in

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# Academic Tips For Parents



Anxiety and stress about starting school are normal for a child. There are new teachers and classmates, different classrooms, new routines, more schoolwork and possibly bus riding. This can be an especially stressful time for children who face major transitions such as entering kindergarten, middle school or high school. It is important for parents to be conscious of the child's anxiety and take proactive steps to support him or her.

## Ways You Can Help Your Child

- **Be Interested and enthusiastic about school – your positive attitude will strongly influence your child's attitude.**
- Listen to your child
- **Spend time each day talking to your child about school**
- Praise your child
- **Attend school functions**
- Pay attention to your child's physical, social and emotional development
- **Stress the importance of effort**
- Schedule meetings with teachers and inquire about your child's in-class performance
- **Encourage your child to participate in extracurricular activities of all types**



Franklinton High School is full of character, and the building will continue to be used for education when FHS moves.

## BOND

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that day.

While the money from the bond will go toward projects at nearly every school in the Franklin County Schools' system, the biggest project will be the building of a new Franklinton High School. Nearly 70 percent of the \$53.3 million will fund a new FHS that will be located on a 75 acre site already owned by FCS at the corner of Lane Store and Cedar Creek

roads. The current home for the Red Rams was built in 1923 and remains arguably the most distinguished building in the county, but is simply too small for the current population. Crowded hallways, tight learning quarters and not enough rooms for teachers are part of everyday life for students and faculty at FHS.

So what will happen to the historic building? Have no fear - the Franklin County Board of Education voted to turn the facility into a middle school shortly after the high school leaves the site. The

Franklinton and Youngsville area is the fastest growing in the county, and another middle school will be needed by the time the new FHS opens for learning. If the bond passes this May 6th, the new Franklinton High School is projected to open for the start of the fall 2011 school year.

The current FHS building will be renovated to bring the facility up to par with the existing middle schools in the county. An estimate of \$10 million was given for cost to upgrade the facility.

- Nathan Moreschi

# Leadership

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way to develop that skill," Smith said.

In this program, students will visit a variety of Franklin County businesses to develop social skills, networking skills and leadership skills. Each trip will have a focus including media, agriculture, economic development, education, government and more.

"We are excited about this program, and we hope this will be a very eye-opening experience for the students," Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Stephen Barrington said. "These are our future leaders of the county, and we want to put our best foot forward to help them. We are also hoping to get some fresh ideas from the students."

There will be 24 students selected for the program. There will be six from each Franklin County high school and six students who are educated at home. Students will have to go through an official application process that



**High School participants in the Leadership Franklin program will get to see a variety of business aspects throughout Franklin County.**

could feature essay questions and possible interviews.

CTE Director Jones said the selection process will be fair and intensive.

"We want the program to be well represented by all areas and people of the county," Barrington said.

There was a similar version of the program during the 2005-2006 school year that was tested at Franklinton High School, and that success has led to the start of this program.

"We felt this would be a good vehicle to show students what is out there, especially in Franklin County," Jones said. "Exposure is the key, and this is one way to show students what is going on in Franklin County."

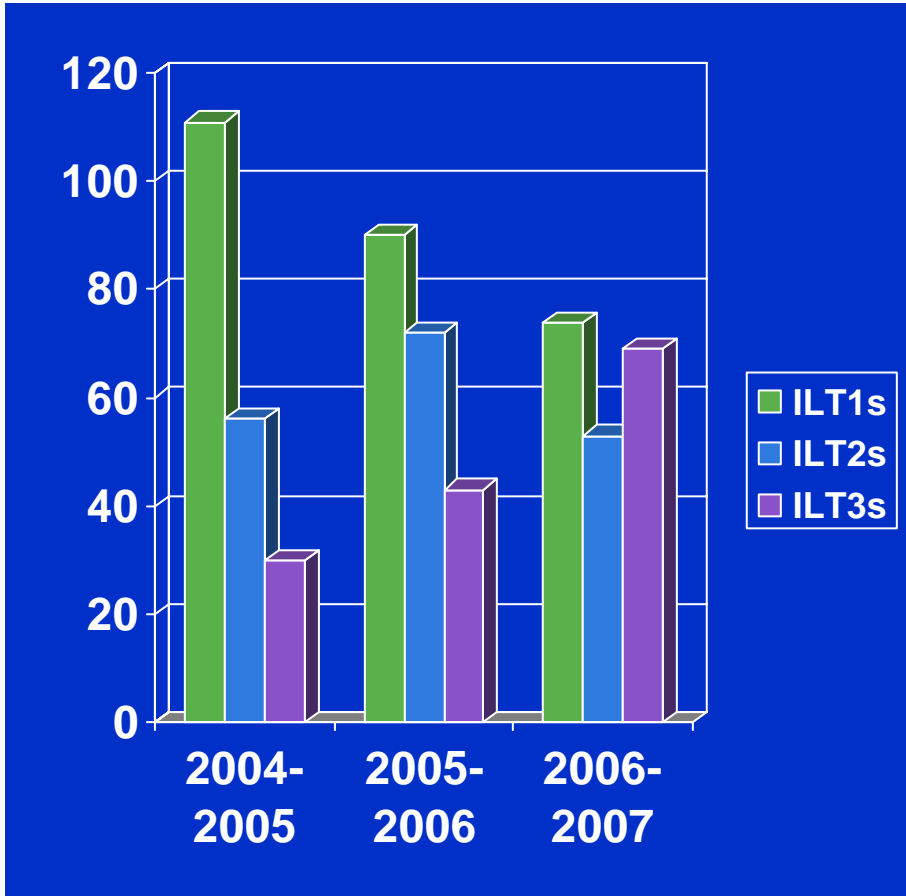
Another aspect of the program is a class project developed by the students involved with the program.

"The type of project will be decided by the students, but we are hoping this will be a good way for the students to provide something for the people of Franklin County to see."



**Many opportunities exist in Franklin County that people don't realize, including a Tilapia Fish Farm.**

- Nathan Moreschi



The above graph, compiled by Judy Lassiter of FCS, shows how the number of first year initially licensed teachers (ILTs) in Franklin County has fallen over the past three years and that third-year ILTs has risen. These are strong indicators that teachers are staying to teach at FCS.

## Retention

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other systems.

At last week's orientation, teachers were treated to lunch on multiple days and received a variety of pointers to help them with their start in the system.

"We've continued to add layers of support," Lassiter said. "Research has shown that the more programs you have, the more likely you are to increase your teacher retention rate."

Among the added incentives for all teachers is a sign-on bonus, retention bonus and salary supplement in addition to the state salary scale. First-year teacher total salary is highly competitive with all other surrounding counties.

A big concern in for FCS in the past has been that the system was losing teachers to neighboring counties because of a large difference in pay scale.

New teachers also get the assistance of a mentor, and they attend support meetings once a month for the first two years of their tenure. In

addition, first year teachers can take part in the Master Teacher Program. This program is a mentor program led by retired FCS teachers. The information shared is 100 percent confidential and not shared with the school's administrative staff.

Another statistic that indicates teachers are sticking to Franklin County is the number third-year teachers continues to climb. The number has risen from approximately 30 in 2004 to 70 this fall.

The 2004 school bond adds to the appeal as well. The bond allowed for \$30 million in renovations and additions to the entire FCS system. Those improvements are now coming to fruition and are also adding extra appeal to the system.

Louisburg High School has a completely different look that features a new front office building, classroom building, vocational building, media center and cafeteria. Bunn High School also has a new cafeteria as well as a new vocational building.

In addition, there are new buildings or improvements at Bunn Elementary, Laurel Mill Elementary and Youngsville Elementary.

In the fall of 2008, Long Mill Elementary School will open. It is located at the intersection of Bert Winston Road and Long Mill Road on the west side of US 1 near Youngsville.

Future plans also include a replacement facility for Franklinton High School on a 75 acre site between Franklinton and Youngsville at the intersection of Cedar Creek Road and Lane Store Road.

- Nathan Moreschi

# Headen, Stover named APs

Two assistant principal vacancies for Franklin County Schools were filled the August 27th Board of Education meeting.

Monica Headen was approved for the new Bunn Middle School position. Judy Stover, who was the Reading First Coordinator for FCS since 2004, is now the AP at Louisburg Elementary.



**Judy Stover**

Headen spent the last year as a principal intern at Southern High School in Durham and was an English teacher for the same school for three years prior. She also taught English on the middle school level in Durham in addition to teaching English at Jordan Matthews in Siler City. Headen spent three years as the Director of Education and Youth Programs for the Triangle Urban League before returning to Education in the fall of 2005. Headen joins the staff of Bunn

Middle AP Carla Coble and new Principal Bill Askins. The second middle school AP position was created to help overcome the difficulties of an expanding student population. Headen recently earned her Masters of School Administration from the University of North Carolina.

Stover, who has spent 34 years in education, began working with Franklin County Schools in 1983 as a teacher at Edward Best Elementary School. She taught grades three through eight through 1988 and was then named Pre-K Coordinator. She spent 16 years in that position and has developed an extensive background in elementary curriculum.



**Monica Headen**

## News Briefs

### Louisburg Rotary Donates Supplies To FCS

The Louisburg Rotary Club had yet another successful back-to-school supply drive. Supplies donated included backpacks, notebooks, pencils and many other school items.

"We wanted to make sure that kids who can't afford basic school supplies don't have to go without," Louisburg Rotary President Alitha Palich said. "The community support for this drive was so enthusiastic. Folks kept telling me how much fun they had filling a backpack with new school stuff."

The collections bins at both the *Franklin Times* and Louisburg Police station were stuffed with items and later distributed by the Louisburg Police Department. Louisburg Police Chief Rick Lassiter and Franklin County Schools' Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme attended a lunch to formally accept the donations.

The Louisburg Rotary Club is a grassroots organization that conducts many service projects throughout the year. For more information, call 495-5487.

### Mentors Needed For 4H Youth Development Program

The Franklin County Cooperative Extension is seeking mentors for its 4H Friends of Youth program. The program needs adults who are willing to spend two hours of positive time per week with children ages 7-18. Teachers are

encouraged to apply as well. Registration is simple with a one-hour training session. For more information, contact Stacy Thompson at 496-3344 or e-mail her at [stacy\\_thompson@ncsu.edu](mailto:stacy_thompson@ncsu.edu).

# European Excitement



This was the view from Bruges, which is not far from the city of Brussels where Bunn Middle teacher Kristen Hensley stayed for a conference in July.

## BMS' Hensley Visits Belgium

**W**hen Kristen Hensley began her career as a social studies and science teacher at Bunn Middle School, Belgium was probably the farthest thing from her mind.

Well, now it is probably one of the first things on her mind after visiting the country this past summer for a service learning conference.

Hensley has been involved with an international book exchange each of the last two years in which her classes exchange books with another culture in hopes of learning more about other

places in the world. This past year her classes exchanged books with a school in Austria and in Norway the year before that.

So how did this lead to a trip to Belgium? Hensley was invited to the conference to talk about her experience with the program. She found out about the program through NCTE.

"This was really a great experience," Hensley

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# BELGIUM

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said. "I went in thinking I might be disliked there because that is a perception the media gives us – but the people were very warm and helpful."

Hensley said her students are sometimes hesitant about the book exchange program but warm up quickly to the process.

"Once we start getting emails from other places, the students get very interested," Hensley said. "This makes the places more real for them – compared to when they just read about them."

Hensley stayed in a local hostel in Brussels and made new friends from a variety of different countries.

"Most of the people there were college professors, and I learned a great deal," Hensley said. "I've been in regular contact with two ladies from Taiwan since the trip."

Hensley found it very intriguing that school systems from all around the world experience similar problems faced in the United States.

"It really opened my eyes – I didn't realize that other countries have problems with students dropping out of school just like here."

Hensley was even asked to write an article concerning the issue for a publication in England.

The Bunn Middle teacher grew up near Boone, NC and graduated from Appalachian State University.

Hensley's experience was so good she plans on attending the next international conference in 2009 in Ireland.



## Sites of the Land

Above is the view at Grand Place in Brussels. Hensley found the stay in Brussels to be quite informative for a variety of reasons. She particularly enjoyed meeting different people from different cultures. Left, Hensley takes time out to chat with Dr. Lynne Bercaw, who made a presentation at the conference.

# School Is In Session

## *Scenes From the Opening Day of School*



Students confidently enter Bunn Middle.



Bunn High School seniors celebrate as they enter the gym for the annual first day assembly.



LES Students hard at work.



CCMS students headed for their new classes.