

# FIRST THURSDAY

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**Franklin County Schools**

**SEPTEMBER, 2008**

Our **F**uture, Our **C**ommitment, Our **S**tudents

## FCS SAT Scores Up

*County gains for  
third straight year*

For the third straight year, Franklin County Schools has experienced an increase in overall Scholastic Aptitude Test results.

In the SAT combined reading and math section, the system increased 19 points to a total of 962.

While Franklin County remains below the state average (1007) and national average (1017), the gap is closing. The national average remained the same this year, while the state average climbed three points.

"It is great to see continued progress," FCS Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme said. "We are very proud of our students for continuing to improve. We are measuring up much better now on both a state and national level. We look forward to helping our students improve even more in the future."

Dr. Eddie Ingram, FCS Executive Director of Curriculum

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## New Director

Chris Shearer is hired as the new Franklin County Schools' Director of Technology. [Page 2](#)

## End Of An Era



Susan Leisy, right, made huge improvements to the FCS Technology Department during her tenure. Leisy retired at the end of August.

## FCS Technology Director Leisy Steps Down

Without leadership, a department can struggle to progress.

Through the leadership of now retired Franklin County Schools' Director of Technology Susan Leisy, FCS has become one of the leading technology systems in the state.

Leisy spent the past 10 years with FCS making sure the county had the best technology program affordable. Leisy's dedication to FCS will be missed, according to Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme.

"Susan possess the perfect blend of

[SEE LEISY PAGE 5](#)



Susan Leisy shares a laugh with FCS Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Doug Moore during a retirement celebration. Leisy was well liked at FCS and will be missed.

# Shearer Named Tech Director

The retirement of Susan Leisy brought a big position to fill—Franklin County Schools Director of Technology.

After an extensive interview process of many highly qualified candidates, Chris Shearer was hired.

A Pennsylvania native, Shearer has been in education for 10 years. He most recently worked for the North Carolina Department of Instruction as a technology consultant. In addition, he worked as a technology facilitator in Rocky Mount and Durham after teaching elementary school in Wendell.

So why FCS?

“Given the level of support from the central office, community and the teachers, this was an easy choice,” Shearer said. “This is an innovative place. You see things here that other places don’t have.”

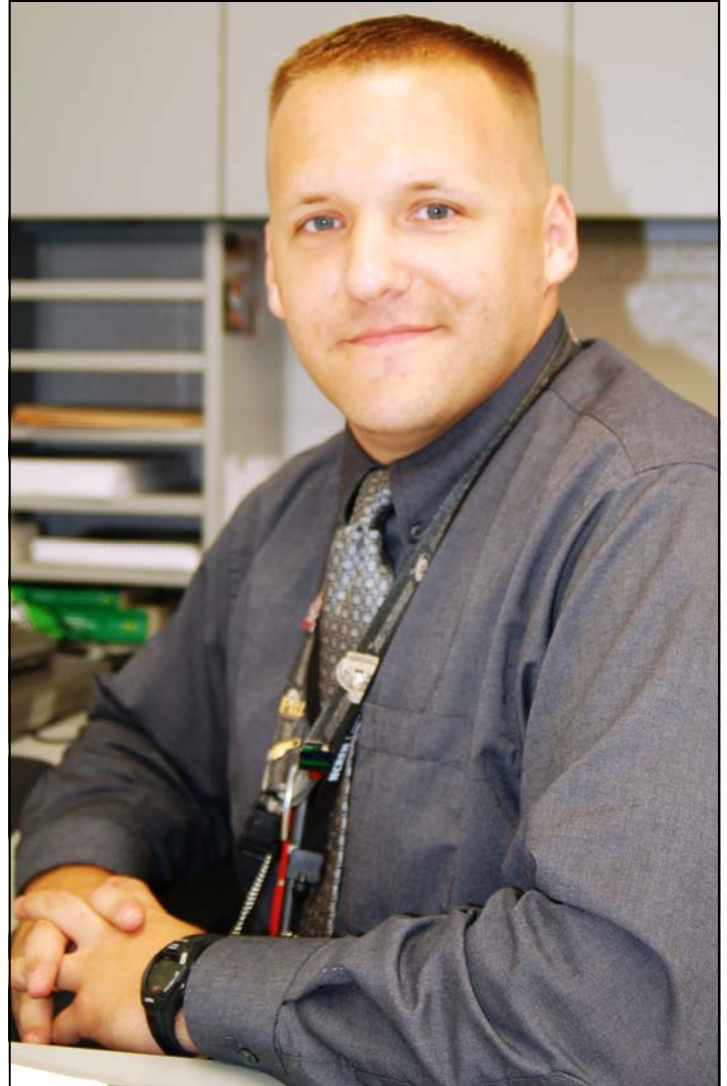
Franklin County Schools is often the benchmark in which other school systems compare to in terms of technology. It’s not uncommon for other counties to come visit FCS for new ideas. Among the counties that have visited FCS are Edgecombe, Wake and Wilson.

“I want to continue the vision that Susan (Leisy) and everyone else had. I want to continue to emphasize the classroom technology—it helps the students achieve, and the teachers grow.”

Shearer is looking forward to working with the strong FCS Technology Staff.

“I work well with all types people, and I try to comfort people who are tentative with technology. I’m out there enough to keep up with the trailblazers as well. I really will support all the people in the field (teachers, staff, students, parents.)”

Shearer is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and received a Masters degree from N. C. State University. He enjoys spending his spare time with his wife Kerry and two children. Also, don’t be too surprised if you see him sporting a piece of Carolina Hurricanes memorabilia.



## *Picking Up The Baton*

Susan Leisy retired from Franklin County Schools at the end of August as Director of Technology. Ten-year education veteran Chris Shearer is the new Director. Shearer brings a combination of teaching, technical knowledge and enthusiasm to the technology department. He spent the past year and a half as a technology consultant for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Shearer intends to keep the current technology program headed in the same positive direction with a strong emphasis on classroom technology in order to continue to improve the education for each student in the FCS system.

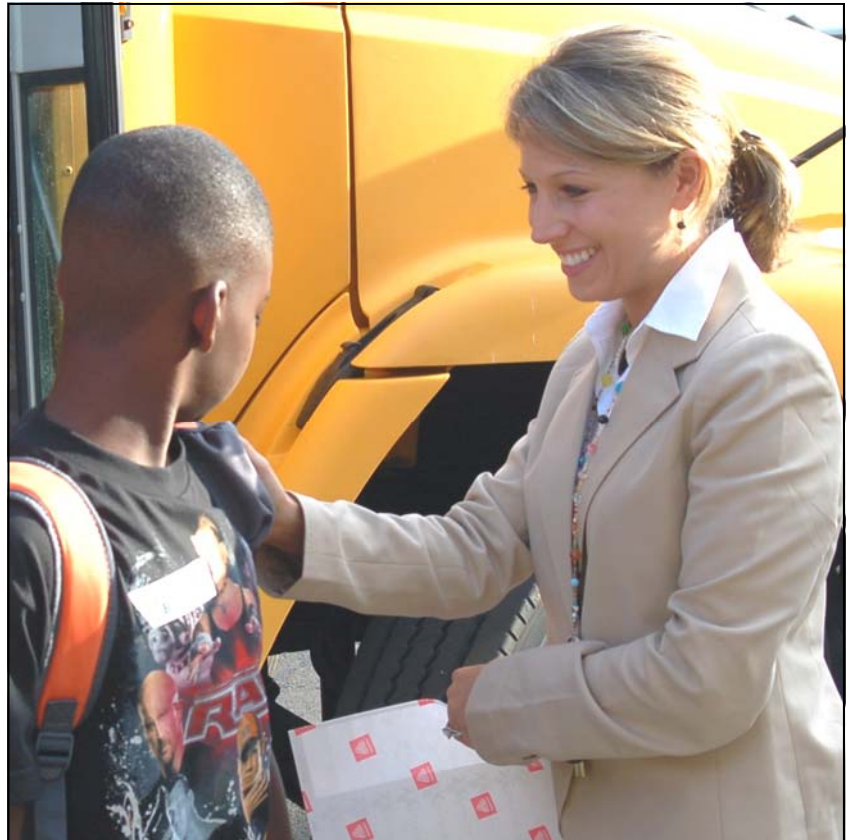
# Smooth Sailing



Principal Ferrell (above) greets students and parents.

Long Mill Elementary Principal Kim Ferrell (above) helps a student out of a car on the first day of school. Long Mill not only opened on time, but the new school is running smoothly. The school is operating with about 450 students.

Long Mill Elementary Assistant Principal Carleen Jones (right) passes some important information to a student as he arrives to the school via the bus.



# Scenes From Opening Day



## LEISY

Continued from page 1

technical knowledge and people skills," L'Homme said. "Franklin County Schools is a model because of Susan's ability and excitement for technology in the classroom. We have become one of North Carolina's leaders in classroom technology because of her vision. She gets along well with others and understands each branch of the department which allows her to make good, solid decisions."

Through her ingenuity and ability to work with her staff, the county has grown by leaps and bounds in terms of technology. In recent years, the implementation of the interactive classrooms has not only changed the way teachers are teaching, but led to more engaged students at all level.

"The interactive classroom became my passion," Leisy said. "Students need the skills to be successful in the current world. We want kids and teachers to do certain things, and we need to have the equipment to do it.

***'This has been a very good place for me. I've made a lot of good friends, and I will miss all of them.'***

**- Susan Leisy**

This type of learning prepares them for the current world.

"We really have to focus on incorporating media in the classroom. We don't want to forget books, but we need to realize there are different ways of learning, and people learn in different ways. The interactive classroom can better adapt to different learning styles."

Leisy's goal was to make the classroom adaptable for as many students as possible.

"The world is so fast," Leisy said. "There are so many ways to communicate. It's so important to get students to realize how to utilize technology. It's

part of their world. It's very interesting to watch the dynamics of their world."

While the interactive classroom may turn out to be Leisy's legacy at FCS, her talents dip much deeper.

Leisy spent 18 years of her career in Martin County (Williamston Middle) as a teacher, media director and five years as technology director. She earned a teaching degree from East Carolina University in 1978 and followed with a Master of Library Science in 1982, also from ECU.

Leisy didn't stop with her education there. She went on to earn a six-year Certification in Advanced Studies (CAS) in 1990, again from ECU.

"I'm very thankful for the opportunity to work with Franklin County Schools," Leisy said. "The best part of my job was the ability to create and watch plans work. The technology team here is the best, and through them, we were able to accomplish a lot. We work well together. I will miss it. This has been a very good place for me. I've made a lot of good friends, and I will miss all of them."

*- Nathan Moreschi*



## Renovated Landmark

Franklinton High School is one of the most distinguished buildings in Franklin County. The school received many renovations over the summer, including a 23 classroom facelift. These renovations were paid with money from 2004 school construction bond. In May of 2008, a \$53 million bond was approved. The majority of that money will build a replacement FHS. The current building will be used for a middle school after the new high school is built.

# SAT

Continued from page 1

and Instruction believes the continued increase in scores is due to increased rigor and expectations.

“The faculty continues to expect the best out each student,” Ingram said. “Teachers are making a concerted effort to make sure each student is held accountable for rigorous course content.

“While we are very happy to see continued progress, we do understand that there is more work to do. We will continue to implement existing programs and explore new ideas to help our students continue to grow academically.”

Bunn High School averaged a combined total of 985 in reading and math, while Franklinton High jumped 44 points to an average of 942. Louisburg High averaged 956, down 18 points from 2007.

The county-wide average for reading and math in 2008 was 496 and 487, respectively.

The SAT writing section is now in its third year. Franklinton High School soared to 467 points (up 22 points), while Bunn High rose to 464 (up 7 points). Louisburg high slipped 21 points to 457.

The national average for writing was 494, while the state average was 482 points.

The overall combined score average for the county (writing, reading and math) came in at 1425. The state overall total is 1489 compared to a national total of 1511.

The SAT is a national benchmark that colleges and universities across the nation use as an entrance standard. While the national average reading and math combined score has dropped 11 points since 2004, FCS has increased 20 points.

“Our goal as a system is to be above the national average and continue to improve each school year,” Ingram said.”

- Nathan Moreschi

SAT COMBINED SCORES (READING AND MATH)						
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
BHS	985	961	960	962	955	961
FHS	942	898	926	918	910	909
LHS	956	974	936	931	968	990
LEA	962	943	941	937	942	953
STATE	1007	1004	1008	1010	1006	1001
NATION	1017	1017	1021	1028	1026	1026

SAT CRITICAL READING SCORES						
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
BHS	487	477	468	472	481	473
FHS	465	453	458	455	451	449
LHS	473	485	464	461	467	492
LEA	475	471	463	463	466	471
STATE	496	495	495	499	499	495
NATION	502	502	503	508	508	507

SAT MATH SCORES						
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
BHS	498	484	492	490	474	488
FHS	477	445	468	463	459	460
LHS	483	489	472	470	501	498
LEA	487	472	478	474	476	482
STATE	511	509	513	511	507	506
NATION	515	515	518	520	518	519

SAT WRITING			
	2008	2007	2006
BHS	464	457	457
FHS	467	445	451
LHS	457	478	458
LEA	463	458	455
STATE	482	482	485
NATION	494	494	497

# Rotary, Police Department Team Up



## Ready For Class

Louisburg Rotary Club President Dr. Bert L'Homme (left) and Louisburg Police Chief were very pleased with the support the community showed during the annual school supply drive. The goal is to make sure all students have the proper materials to have a successful year of school.

## School Supplies Donated

Successful is the only way to describe The Louisburg Rotary Club's Annual Back-to-School Supply Drive. "We know how important it is for all students to get off to a get start to the school year," Louisburg Rotary President Dr. Bert L'Homme said. "Through the support of the community, we were able to help many students get a good start that may not have been possible without proper supplies. We are very thankful for the support."

The collection bins at both The Franklin Times and the Louisburg Police Station were filled to the brim with new backpacks, notebooks, pencils, and an assortment of other school items. The materials were presented to Louisburg Police Chief Rick Lassiter to be distributed to the children. "The teachers and schools identify the children who need these materials, and we can see that they (the children) get them," Chief Lassiter said.

The Louisburg Rotary Club is a grassroots organization with many service projects conducted throughout the year. If you want to participate in this or any other community service project sponsored by Rotary please call 919.495.5487 for more information.

# Cutting Energy Costs

## *FCS Taking Common Sense Approach*

It's no secret that the national, state and local economies are not in the best of shape. With those difficulties come financial strains for many organizations, including school systems.

It's always been the practice of Franklin County Schools to conserve as much energy as possible, but now, more than ever, school officials are stressing the continued importance of simple ways to conserve energy.

"We are in an environment where we are being impacted by several things," FCS Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Doug Moore said. "The economy is slow, and the price of fuel is high. This includes fuel for vehicles, heating and the cost of electricity. Because of the high costs, the price of everything is affected."

A third factor is the recent opening of Long Mill Elementary School. Start-up costs alone for the new

facility were approximately \$450,000.

"All of this together sets the stage for a tight budget for Franklin County Schools," Moore said.

Simple tasks such as turning lights off when not in use and appropriately adjusting thermostats can save a sizable sum of money for the school system.

"Anything anyone can do to reduce costs, especially with fuel, will be a great benefit to Franklin County Schools," Moore said.

This is an on-going process at FCS. The goal is to become as energy-efficient as possible.

"We must continue to find more ways to cut down on energy costs," Moore said.

- Nathan Moreschi

# Employees Of The Quarter



Alice Faye Gupton (center) poses with former CEC teacher now Bunn Middle Principal Jon Dixon, CEC Principal Dale Byrns, CEC Facilitator Deborah Hall and Board of Education Chair Paige Sayles.



FCS Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme informs Thomas Earl Ayscue (right) that he is the latest Employee of the Quarter.

## Shining Stars

Each quarter, two FCS employees are named Employee of the Quarter. The most recent recognitions brought two more well-deserving employees to the spotlight—Thomas Earl Ayscue and Alice Faye Gupton. Alice Faye Gupton is a staple at the Creative Education Center, while Thomas Earl Ayscue can be found displaying his handy work for the FCS Maintenance Department.



Former Louisburg High School Principals Chris Blice and Dr. Eddie Ingram (FCS Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction) offer words of encouragement for new Louisburg High Principal Freda Clifton.

# Changing Of The Guard

## *Freda Clifton Named Principal of Louisburg High*

Freda Clifton is the new Principal of Louisburg High School. Clifton has worked for FCS since 2001. Clifton was a teacher at Terrell Lane Middle from 2001-2005 prior to becoming an assistant principal at Bunn High School. Clifton, a Bunn High School graduate, is a product of the NC Teaching Fellows Program. She graduated with high honor (summa cum laude) from NC A&T University.

Clifton replaces Chris Blice. Blice spent five years at LHS and left a positive result. Louisburg High grew in many areas during Blice's tenure.



**Freda Clifton**

Blice is now the Principal of Northwood in Chatham County.

Clifton enjoyed a her time as AP at Bunn High School but relished the idea of becoming Principal of Louisburg High.

She spent the first few days of her new post with Blice, who is now enjoying his new job in Chatham County.

Clifton truly believes this is where she needs to be and wants to continue with the improved success that Blice brought.

She was well liked and respected at Bunn High, and although she will be missed, her colleagues are very happy for her.