



# Opening Doors

Connecting You to Franklin Public Schools



## A Message from the Superintendent

Wow, the beginning of the school year truly flew by! We had a fantastic beginning to our year, with staff and students ready to get to work!

## Save the Date!

### HOLIDAY CONCERTS

#### Ben Franklin

Band/Orchestra	12/12	2:00 PM
		7:00 PM
Choir	12/16	2:00 PM

#### Pleasant View

Winter Concert	12/9	1:30 PM
----------------	------	---------

#### Robinwood

Music Concert	12/9	1:30 PM
---------------	------	---------

#### Southwood Glen

Band Concert	12/13	2:45 PM
		7:00 PM

#### High School

Band	12/14	7:00 PM
Choir	12/15	7:30 PM

Already this year has been filled with academic, artistic and athletic accomplishments from our students. We are proud to have schools full of kids who represent our district and community in such a positive way.

Our staff is working constantly on new District initiatives and projects to improve how our students are learning. The district-wide literacy program is well underway in all of our classrooms, thanks to all of the staff who made the implementation go smoothly and who continue to work on teaching the new curriculum.

The rest of our year will certainly bring new changes and new projects that will continue to move our District forward.

Wishing everyone a safe winter season!

**-Dr. Steve Patz, Superintendent**



### Holiday Reminder

**Winter Break**

**Dec 23- Jan 2**

Classes Resume  
January 3, 2012

### Want to Hear More?

To stay up on what's happening, visit our website [www.franklin.k12.wi.us](http://www.franklin.k12.wi.us).

Follow us on Twitter- FPSDistrictwi

Sign up for our e-Newsletters! (Go to any school's webpage and click on Newsletters to choose from a list.)



## District Moves Forward with Facility Planning

### Community Conversations Planned Regarding Facility Renovation and Expansion Options

The Franklin Public School District Board of Education is moving forward with a facilities planning process to address identified needs at the middle and high school levels. The District has hired Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA) of Milwaukee to help develop a series of preliminary facilities solutions that correspond with feedback gathered from a community-wide survey effort last fall. More than 3,000 district residents provided their input on facilities priorities, including the following key findings:

- Prioritize core academics
- Move forward with plans in a timely manner
- Focus on renovating and expanding the existing middle and high schools rather than new construction options
- Develop a comprehensive yet time-phased plan that addresses critical needs first, including total capacity, technology, and aging building systems

“In response to this citizen input, we will work closely with EUA in the coming months to identify and carefully evaluate renovation and expansion options that are both practical and reasonable,” noted District Administrator Dr. Steve Patz. “Prior to making any decisions on our facilities issues, we must understand all aspects of these ideas before we can determine if they are viable long-term solutions to our facilities needs. Once this information is gathered, we will then need extensive input from staff and the broader community before moving forward.”

Residents will have the opportunity to learn about the developing options, ask questions, and offer specific feedback in early 2012.

## What Happens on Half Days?

Many parents wonder what goes on in our schools during the six times a year when students are released early from school. Well, the answer is that our staff is learning!

Half days allow for our district staff to participate in professional development work around improving the educational experience of their students.

“Professional development is absolutely vital to moving our instruction forward,” says Director of Instruction Wendy Dzurick. “Everything we do on half days directly impacts how our students learn.”

Teachers work most often with their grade level or department colleagues on focus goals they have chosen based on needs identified through data analysis.



Many training sessions are lead by trained district experts, so staff learn from one of their own. This also makes the work more applicable to every staff member’s teaching assignment.