

FC welcomes Al Eckert as new interim principal

FC students and staff look optimistic to a change in administration,
but also reflect on past years

Page 5



the bagpiper

NEWS

A&E

FORUM

FEATURES

Readers,

Welcome to the first digital issue of the Bagpiper for the 2023-2024 school year. In this issue, we covered a large variety of topics, such as FC's new interim principal and assistant principals, the addition of the health clinic, and the importance of funding performing arts. Our 1 in 1900 this issue is senior Cole Jones, a boys' soccer co-captain. Our editorial discusses how students are planning to adapt to the loss of previous staff members, as well as the addition of new ones. Other stories can be found in the table of contents below.

If you have any suggested story topics or questions, feel free to email us at bagpiper.fchs@gmail.com. Also, be sure to check out our online coverage of events by visiting our website at fchsbagpiper.wordpress.com and @fchsbagpiper on Instagram. Thank you for reading, and we hope you enjoy.

Alexa Truex, Editor-in-Chief

- Page 5 **Interim principal:** FC welcomes Al Eckert as he transitions from Silver Creek High School, even as former principal Rob Willman moves to Silver Creek.
- Page 6 **Importance of funding:** Students and staff explain why funding performing arts is vital to FC arts as orchestra director Doug Elmore wins national award.
- Page 7 **Editorial:** The *Bagpiper* staff discusses how the departure of educators negatively affects students and their plans.
- Page 3 **Health clinic:** New health clinic is open and offering services to students, faculty and staff.
- Page 4 **Assistant principals:** New assistant principal team shares goals for the school year.
- Page 8 **1 in 1900:** Take a look inside the life of senior Cole Jones, boys' soccer co-captain.

Front cover:

INTERIM PRINCIPAL AL ECKERT does his work on his computer during flex on Tuesday, August 15. **Photo by Jorge Zarate.**

Table of contents:

SENIOR RACHAEL SHAFFER watches her ball fly through the air after taking a swing during practice at Valley View on Wednesday, August 9. **Photo by Lily Douce.**

Health clinic provides options for students

Izzy Mcknight

Features Reporter

Oliviah Campbell

Features Reporter

Throughout the year, hundreds of FC students visit Melissa Eldridge in the nurse's office. However, the care she can provide is limited depending on the situations that occur with students. With the newly-added health clinic at FC, students have more options of care when it comes to their health.

"Even basic medical care we have medical standing orders from our school corporation that is signed off by a doctor. So everything I do I have to have a doctor's order form, but a nurse practitioner is different, they have a higher degree," said Eldridge. "They aren't quite a doctor, but they can diagnose someone and they can do more in

depth testing. I know our nurse practitioner could give stitches and she can perform physicals and sign off for them. She can prescribe certain medications and more diagnostic testing."

When caring for more serious testing and more strict or prescribed medications, there are certain standards that do have to be met to receive that attention by new nurse practitioner Tori Morgan.

"She can do physicals and is more like the Little Clinic's doctors office. Before you go to her you have to have an appointment or parental consent if you're not 18 and fill out paperwork with an insurance card on file because they do billing," said Eldridge.

Located across from the bookstore door, the new clinic will allow for more students to be seen by a registered nurse a lot

faster.

"Typically, we have same day open. When she's [Morgan] not here I can do telehealth on certain things. So we would just get on zoom," said Taylor Isgrigg, the licensed nurse practitioner in the clinic.

With quick access to medical services like the health clinic and the nurse's office, it gives students that have more chronic health conditions the ability to have a better management plan at school.

"In the health office I do chronic management of health conditions like if a student has diabetes and come by everyday to check their blood sugar to count carbs to figure out how much insulin they are getting. I give daily medications and of course I see more minor things and I also respond to any emergencies in the school building," said Eldridge.

Students have noticed that there has been a recent change that has been taking place in the nurse's office.

"Well, the last time I was in there the experience was great; the staff seemed very considerate when I was talking to them about what was happening. They also seemed knowledgeable about what was needed to be able to help me get through school," said sophomore Constance Phelps.

FC has not been the only school that has had success when introducing a health clinic to their school resources. New Albany High School has implemented a clinic and it has been very successful.

"They tried it at New Albany first because they do have a lot of different needs than us. I would say they're bigger, but I'm not

“They aren't quite a doctor, but they can diagnose someone and they can do more in-depth testing. I know our nurse practitioner could give stitches and she can perform physicals and sign off for them.

Melissa Eldridge

school nurse

sure that's the case anymore. I think we're kinda right there even population wise," said Eldridge.

"For a while New Albany was a lot bigger, so they did try it there first and when they were successful and saw that it was benefiting students and parents," she said. "They decided to branch out and see what they can do for us at Floyd Central. So who knows? Maybe in the future we will have a full-time nurse practitioner."

The new clinic will use a billing system through a student's insurance to pay for appointments. Most students live with their parents or guardians who pay for their health insurance. For those who are in different situations, the clinic is not out of the question.

"We file health insurance if students have it; nobody will ever be turned away for inability to pay. If they do not have insurance we base it on a sliding scale that uses all factors of that student's household. The most charge I believe is a \$50 fee," said Morgan.

Since it is only the beginning of the new school

year many students have not been introduced to the health clinic. For freshmen, some have not even had the chance to be introduced to the nurse's office yet, which is always the first response to any medical situation for students. Nurses and teachers are reaching out to parents and students about the health clinic and making them aware of the new addition.

"We've sent out flyers to teachers and we've put out flyers in the announcements. I've had parents that have said 'Oh, my kid needs a physical' or something like that obviously we refer them right there. There's a QR code you can scan and there is a phone number that you can call," said Eldridge.

Some students have realized the clinic is available and have already started making appointments. Both New Albany and FC have plenty of students waiting to be seen.

"In the first two weeks that school has started we have already seen around 50 kids between the two schools, we're definitely staying busy," said Morgan.



Assistant principals settle into the new year

Avery Sorrells

Features Editor

Peyton Reid

Copy Editor

With a new school year just getting started, it made way for many changes in the front office, one of which was bringing together an almost completely new team of three assistant principals, including Jody Johnson, and new assistant principals Kelly Payne and Scott Hatton.

A new team means bringing in new ideas as well as many goals that this administration is striving to accomplish in the 2023-24 school year.

“Our goal -- and what we told the teachers and what we say to the students -- is we don't plan on changing a bunch of things; we want to get better at what we are already doing,” said Johnson.

For example, increasing teacher collaboration and better utilizing flex period are aspects the assistant principals hope to strengthen. In order to work towards these goals, Johnson, Payne and Hatton had to work together and begin planning as soon as possible.

“Our goal -- and what we told the teachers and what we say to the students -- is we don't plan on changing a bunch of things; we want to get better at what we are already doing.”

“They got approved by the school board on the 17th of July, so from the 18th of July, they were able to start working here and show up every day. So ever since then, the three of us would sit down and go through what is coming up next,” said Johnson.

Although Hatton and Payne were hired for their positions slightly late, assistant superintendent Louis Jensen expressed how well they fit into the system.

“We felt really really good about the two assistant principals we hired. We had Kelly Payne, who had been a dean (at New Albany High School); she knew our system and that was good,” said Jensen. “Mr. Hatton brings to us new fresh eyes on how we operate.”

With the process of finding the new assistant principals taking until the middle of July, Johnson had to take on the responsibilities of what would normally be handled by three administrators.

“One of my responsibilities ever since I have been here was the master schedule, so I have always been responsible for scheduling so that's a big part of what I do in the summer,” said

Jody Johnson
assistant principal



ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS JODY JOHNSON, SCOTT HATTON AND KELLY PAYNE discuss their plans for the week on Monday, August 14. “We are in the human business, people business, and yes, it's education but the way we interact is crucial,” said Hatton.

Johnson. “The problem was I was doing a lot of other things besides just scheduling. So I don't feel like it was as ready as it usually is.”

Now that there are three assistant principals this year instead of two, Johnson, Payne, and Hatton were able to split assignments between the three of them to help the school run smoothly.

“I take more lead in safety and drills, Class Night, intersession that we will have, picture day; we have what is called extended days where students can receive extra help after school. Our SAL, AP testing, all of those,” said Hatton.

Along with Johnson and Hatton taking on large duties in the school, Payne is tackling big responsibilities this year as well.

“I take care of the end of the

alphabet O-Z, so any kind of discipline or anything like that with students, even with certain schedule changes things have to go through me, so I work with (counselor) Mr. Clark, who also takes care of O-Z,” said Payne.

For the larger tasks, such as staff evaluations, the three assistant principals divide into equal sections, in order to stay organized.

Furthermore, there was a transitional period that had to take place in order for Payne to become adjusted to a new school and Hatton a whole new school system.

“As a parent, I know Floyd Central. I have been in the building and I've been to many events. What made it more difficult was my transition was finalized just a few days before teachers started, so I didn't

have a whole lot of time to get adjusted,” she said.

Similarly, Payne explained that even though she was a part of the district, there were still certain details that she had to learn about FC.

“Being in the district you know the policies and things like that -- of course, discipline, collaboration, instruction that's all set up through the district,” said Payne. “However, just coming here and every school is different and has their way of doing things, so learning how things are done and that are stressed more from one school to the other.”

Despite any challenges that were faced, this assistant principal team came in with a common goal in mind, which was to make this a successful school year for students and staff.

FC welcomes Eckert as interim principal

Anastacia Granholm
News Editor

Deanna Akin
Assistant News Editor

There have been many new changes at FC this year, one of these being the staff. We have many new teachers and assistant principals, but one of the most evident changes is the new principal.

After almost 30 years of being at FC, former principal Rob Willman accepted the principalship at Silver Creek High School in Sellersburg.

"If you add up all of the years that I had been going to work in that building, it had been over half my life. So I thought that it would present new challenges for me, and if I'm going to make a change this is really the time to do it," said Willman.

Meanwhile, Dr. Al Eckert, retired Silver Creek High School principal, has taken over the role of FC's interim principal this school year.

The New Albany-Floyd County School Board is still looking for a long-term principal, however, Eckert will be principal for the 2023-24 school year.

"I had no inkling this was going to happen. Say, mid-July. I had no idea this was going to happen, so it was all last minute, and, you know, I did not apply for the job, they called and asked if I'd be interested. So I wasn't pursuing any job at that time," said Eckert.

Assistant superintendent Louie Jensen shared how timing has made the process more difficult than usual.

"There were several factors that went into hiring an interim principal rather than a permanent

one," said Jensen. "Timing was the main reason. We wanted to make sure that the person we hired had the correct qualifications and experience."

The hiring process was last minute for Eckert as well. He was not aware that he was a candidate for the interim position until around a week before the school year started.

"I was notified, I believe, on Friday before the board meeting, that they were going to recommend me for the position. And then I didn't really know officially until July 31 at the meeting. I didn't know anything for sure until the night before school started."

Experience proved to be an important factor in hiring Eckert, as he has over 33 years of experience. The principal plays an extremely important role in school decision making.

"We're looking for someone who will be an instructional leader and someone who has a background in education," said Jensen. "The principal drives the mission of the school and every decision stops at the principal to be decided."

Most principals have a few weeks before school starts to prepare for the school year, but Eckert did not have this advantage. Eckert has been a principal at three other schools, so while he was used to going to different schools, he was not used to having this little time to prepare.

"Usually you start three or four weeks before school starts, and you can kind of get all your ducks in a row before students start showing up. So that was a little nerve wracking, not really knowing what I was walking into."

There are many differences between the schools Eckert has

previously been at and FC. Many of the schools he was previously at did not offer the same activities that FC does.

"I haven't been in a school that's had an orchestra, I haven't been in a school where there's radio and TV. I haven't been in a school that's had ROTC, so there's a lot of really cool things I haven't been exposed to before that I'm really excited about learning about," said Eckert.

While FC students and staff are excited about the new principal, they will still remember Willman, who had had a profound impact on the school that many will miss.

"I think what I will miss most about him is his motto, WTL, wanting to learn," said sophomore Kinley Allen-Duncan.

While Willman is excited for his new role at Silver Creek, he will miss the bonds he created at FC. Willman was involved in the hiring of most of the staff at FC, so he will miss them as well as the students.

"I'm going to miss the staff most definitely, because I created some really tight relationships with a lot of people. I'm definitely going to miss interacting with the students at FC everyday," he said.

As the new school year starts, students and staff are anticipating a new beginning. Eckert is looking forward to being a part of everything that FC has to offer. He said the school year has opened smoothly so far.

"I'm very excited about the school year, I think that we're already off to a good start. I'm excited about activity starting, I'm looking forward to all the athletic activities, the drama activities, they've got a big slate of things happening," said Eckert.

FROM DR. WILLMAN

Why did you decide to switch to Silver Creek?

"It was one of those things where this came open, it was available, and I thought about a new challenge. You know I was a student at Floyd Central, I started teaching there in 1999 so if you add up all of the years that I had been going to work in that building, it had been over half my life. So, it looked to me, with this new challenge, I thought that it would present new challenges for me, and if I'm going to make a change this is really the time to do it."

What are you going to miss the most about FC?

"I would bet that I was involved in the hiring of maybe 85% of the staff there, so I'm going to miss the staff most definitely, because I created some really tight relationships with a lot of people. I'm definitely going to miss interacting with the students, the students at FC, everyday. There were definitely some good relationships there."

Are there any changes you've had to adapt to?

"Well, first of all, we're on blocked scheduling over here, so that's different. The periods are much longer; it's 85 minutes a class period. I would say that the student body is a little bit more diverse, racially, when it comes to Floyd Central, so that's a little bit of a change for me. There are some programs here that we did not have. There's some really strong ties to local businesses here, that is something I hadn't had a whole lot of experience in. And I would say that the whole unfinished facility is something a little bit different."

FC's arts share the importance of funding

Kylie Bristow
A&E Editor

Alexis Luethold
A&E Reporter

With the 2023-24 school year in full swing, performing arts once again begins their practice for a new year of musical fun. Behind each arts group, there is an aspect that is required for them to be able to perform: funding.

"The music department requires a lot of money to be able to maintain our instruments," said senior bronze ringer Ivy Hasenour. "...It is very difficult to rely on donations, so fundraising is our best option. It helps us to improve our performing arts groups and allows them to be as large as they are today."

Fundraising not only helps to provide a stable income for new music and instruments, but it also supplies the arts with money for fees and special events or trips.

"Our band fees are about 650 dollars; we each had to raise

them this year, but without the funding, we can't get the staff that we need to help us...we need to pay for food, transportation, all the competitions we go to. It [fundraising] allows us to keep us going," said junior flute player Sam Blank.

Due to band fees being expensive, there are a multitude of fundraisers that band has done or plans to do for the cost.

"There's so many of them it is kind of hard to keep track of them [fundraisers]," said band director Harold Yankey. "We do yard sales, we do a soap sale, we are going to be selling cotton candy at football games, we do shirts, we do a car wash. So, we do many things to help keep the program at the level we would like it to be."

Students and teachers are not the only ones who play a role in fundraising. Parents are a huge part of the success the arts groups have had throughout the year.

"In the choir and handbell



Grace Michell/The Bagpiper

ORCHESTRA TEACHER DOUG ELMORE conducts the orchestra students during their warm-ups on Friday, August 18. "Money for the performing arts is a very fungible, flexible resource that can give you things that your school district does not give you," said Elmore, who recently won the Barry Manilow Music Project contest.

world, a lot of our fundraising is organized and facilitated by parents who are the boosters," said choral director Angela Hampton. "Parents that are on the exec board have a direct role because they are coordinating these things a lot of the time."

Furthermore, the parents, depending on what the current fundraiser is, play many different roles during the entire process.

"We need parents that help for the Winter Fantasia auction, for instance, help put the baskets together that we set out and bid on and then a lot of times it's parents that are bidding on the auction on those, too," said Hampton.

Additionally, fundraisers like the poinsettia sale are targeted more toward parents and older family members, while the popular chocolate fundraiser is targeted mainly toward students.

On other occasions, arts are sometimes provided with funding outside of school. Orchestra director Doug Elmore was recently nominated for – and won – the Barry Manilow Music Project contest.

"In every town that Barry Manilow visits on his American tour, a few months ahead of the concert, they take nominee names and I was fortunate enough to be one of those nominees," said Elmore.

Winning the Barry Manilow Award depends on the voting that takes place online. Out of the nominees picked, only one could eventually win the 10 thousand-dollar award for their corresponding ensembles.

"I thought 'this is going to be a break for me and my kids, so if I'm going to enter this thing let's try to win,'" said Elmore.

"I mobilized the Floyd Central community, the Highland Hills community, the local youth orchestra community, and all my friends in the jazz community."

Toward the end of the contest, the votes for each nominee are tallied up and the person with the most tallies wins a cash reward of 5000 dollars and an additional 5000 for instruments.

"I think the notoriety of the Manilow Project Award and the fact that my name is now stapled to it at this little moment in history gives more weight to the argument that music and the performing arts are very important here," said Elmore.

Throughout the entire school year, there are fundraisers to help provide for FC's performing arts. These fundraisers are a way to ensure the arts can accomplish their goals for years to come.



Educator turnover harms students

Bagpiper staff

Staff Editorial

2,580 SCHOOL PERSONNEL JOB VACANCIES IN THE STATE OF INDIANA

Source: Indiana Department of Education as of 8/18/23

Alexa Truex/*The Bagpiper*

With the 2023-24 school year just beginning, students and staff are facing major changes. A brand new interim principal and two new assistant principals have officially arrived at FC. It seems that many of FC's staff are quickly rotating out, however, leaving many questions to be asked. Including, why are teachers and administrators leaving and what effect does it have on students?

First, we believe that the amount of teachers leaving FC has left several students struggling to find ways to complete their ICC pathways. Teachers who offered dual credit courses left before this school year, causing many students to replace their dual credit classes with AP classes.

"My schedule was completely changed right before this summer. I had originally planned on taking maybe advanced earth space

for my science ICC, but now I can't anymore. It just feels unfair that as a senior, all these changes were pushed onto us without much reward," said senior Landry Rice. "At least incoming juniors get the opportunity to take AP seminar and research; we don't even get that as an option."

Another teacher that announced her resignation is chemistry teacher Jennifer Gohmann. This means, FC has about a month to find an adequate replacement for her.

So what problem does this pose for future students? Courses such as meteorology and astronomy are no longer being offered as college credit courses. This will force students into finding other dual credit courses or AP classes they are not necessarily interested in.

Senior Luke Olmstead said he had to alter plans to take meteorology or astronomy to complete his ICC credits when

a credentialed teacher left at the end of the school year; now he is taking AP biology instead.

With various students relating to Olmstead's sentiments, this causes us as a staff to voice our concerns with what may continue to happen to FC teachers and how it relates to students. We believe to even begin to solve this issue, it first needs to be addressed. Many students feel that teachers or

administrators attempt to steer clear of this conversation: why are so many teachers and administrators leaving?

According to the Indiana Department of Education, there are 2580 teaching vacancies in the state of Indiana as of Friday, August 18. Over the summer, yet another teaching position opened up at FC. Advanced speech teacher Sarah Miller announced her move late July, which again, left FC scrambling to find a replacement for another dual credit class.

Former principal Rob Willman, now the principal at Silver Creek High School, said, "I think one of the things that the administration did a good job of was meeting regularly with student groups and being receptive to what it is that they thought about the school, how to get better, and how to improve the culture."

Our staff believes that if central office administrators and school board members chose to do the same with teachers, and genuinely attempted to improve the issues that are brought up, teachers will feel more comfortable and supported in their workplace.

“

It just feels unfair that as a senior, all these changes were pushed onto us without much reward

Landry Rice
senior

”

Editor-in-Chief

Alexa Truex

Web/Graphics Editor

Lizzie Didat

Photo Editor

Grace Michell

Copy Editor

Peyton Reid

News Editor

Anastacia Granholm

Assistant News Editor

Deanna Akin

Sports Co-Editors

Allyson Duckworth

Lily Douce

Features Editor

Avery Sorrells

A&E Editor

Kylie Bristow

Forum Editor

Olivia Eblesisor

1/1900 Editor

Claire Jones

Photographers

Julia DeRossett, Sophie Douce, Isaac

Mullins, Taylor Rothrock, Jorge Zarate

Reporters

Danny Ashby, August Bain, Olivia

Campbell, Atlas Coble, Alexandria

Cunningham, Madeline Fellmeth,

Breanna Fischer, Emilia Hudson, Alexis

Leuthold, Izzy McKnight, Ryan Miller,

Lucy Owens, McKenna Pruit, Ian

Recever, Noah Vivrette, Kenny Ward

Artists

Arden Garvis

Claire White

Adviser

Jim Lang

Assistant Adviser

Jennifer London

Interim Principal

Dr. Al Eckert

Superintendent

Dr. Travis Madison

Mission Statement

The purpose of the *Bagpiper* is to truthfully report the news and to engage the audience in online and print media. We strive to provide the meaning and significance behind all news, making visual connections between events and the readers. Above all, we aim to uphold the ethical standards we see in the professional field while serving all faculty, staff,

1 in 1900: senior Cole Jones

Claire Jones

1/1900 Editor

What does being co-captain mean to you?

"It means a lot to me that I was chosen as a captain, and I'm happy to be a leader this year for our team and help make sure everyone is on task doing the right thing, and working hard in practice every day, so that way we can make it as far as we can."

What goals do you want to accomplish this year as a team?

"We talked about goals at the beginning of the season, and one of the goals we talked about was winning all of our rival games. We also want to be the first team to ever win a regional championship at FC."

What are your individual goals for your senior season?

"So for me, personally, I want to score as many goals as possible, try to get over 20 hopefully, and I want to make everyone on the field a lot better when I step on."

What piece of advice would you give the underclassmen on the team?

"I would just tell them to take advantage of it, enjoy your time here, and don't be in a rush. Just take everything slow."



Grace Michell/*The Bagpiper*

To watch a multimedia video about Jones, go to fchsbagpiper.wordpress.com or [@fchsbagpiper](https://www.instagram.com/fchsbagpiper) on Instagram.