

Salute to graduates

For the first time in West Central School's history, the 2020 graduation will be held virtually, rather than in-person due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At 'Dateline's' deadline, West Central staff were putting the finishing touches on the virtual graduation. Plans included recorded speeches and individual recognition for each graduate. The graduates are also highlighted in our "Tribute to the 2020 Graduates" in this issue of 'Dateline.'



Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, said, "we are so impressed with the work of Dr. Turner and her staff to make sure these graduates and their families are properly recognized. It is such an important milestone and so important to celebrate their achievements as they begin another chapter of their life."

COVID-19 update

SCHOOL YEAR ENDS

The school year has ended, but this will be one school year students and families will never forget.

Based on orders from the Ohio Health Commissioner, Dr. Amy Acton and Governor Mike DeWine, school buildings were closed from mid-March through end of May due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Teachers, therapists, and other support staff worked in partnership with families to provide online training and support for students and families.

Parents or other family members became the teachers' helpers with coaching from staff. And, staff used technology like You-Tube, Zoom and Teleconferencing to communicate with students and families. Staff and parents alike learned more and more about different and creative uses of technology.

Because of COVID-19, Summer Center programs had to be cancelled for 2020. At 'Dateline's' deadline, discussions were being held about the Transition to Work program.

SERVICE COORDINATION AND PROVIDERS

Other services provided by the Board continue with almost all staff working from home. Service Coordinators maintained contact with individuals on their caseloads, families and providers, with particular emphasis on those who have medical issues placing them at greater risk. Individuals receive services from over 500 residential and adult providers in Franklin County. According to Larry Macintosh, Director of Administrative and Support Services, "the Providers in Franklin County have really stepped up to provide quality care, while keeping people safe. There are so many stories of how Providers and Direct Service Professionals have gone the extra mile to provide needed support."

CORE MESSAGES

With many businesses re-opening, better weather and more testing, it is expected that more and more people will be diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus. With that in mind, Health Officials are stressing that everyone continue to follow preventive guidelines and help communicate the core messages:

- Wash hands
- Maintain social/physical distance (6 feet)
- Stay at home whenever possible
- Wear face coverings in public
- Stay Safe Ohio!



Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison maintains 'Stay Safe Ohio' protocols by wearing a mask.

Census count more important than ever

Editor's Note: Thank you to the Franklin County Commissioners for providing this article on the 2020 Census. This year more than ever, the Census is important, recognizing how much federal funding comes from the government.

The U.S. constitution requires the federal government to count everyone who lives in the United States every ten years.

For the first time this year, the census is mostly online, but the plan still calls for local officials to promote the count at community events and for census employees to do a large part of the count by going door-to-door talking with people who haven't responded online. Needless to say, social distancing, event cancellations, and stay-at-home orders have thrown a wrench into those plans.

The decennial census count is used in a variety of important ways, including determining each state's representation in Washington D.C. and funding amounts for programs that many residents rely on, like Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, Head Start, WIC, TANF, housing, public transportation, and disaster relief. In all, Ohio receives more than \$33 billion each year that is determined by census numbers, which means that we'll lose more than \$1,200 per person each year for everyone we fail to count.

The current public health crisis highlights why it is vitally important to count everyone who lives in our county. Many of our neighbors are furloughed or unemployed, and applications for social services like those funded according to the census count have skyrocketed. Many parts of Ohio are shrinking, so it's also doubly important to be sure to count everyone in growing areas like Central Ohio.

The census is underway right now, and due to the pandemic, the response period has been extended. Every household will receive a postcard providing a unique code, and can visit My2020Census.gov to fill out the census. There are only ten questions and the survey only takes a few minutes. It's available in multiple languages and can even be taken by phone, if you prefer. The important thing, is to respond and be counted. Your community is counting on you.

To take the census, visit My2020Census.gov. For more information, visit MakeFCCount.com.



Summer Center programs cancelled

The Early Childhood and West Central Summer Center programs for 2020 have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

With social and physical distancing requirements continuing and state orders to close schools through June 30, it just wasn't possible to hold the programs.

Early Intervention services will continue throughout the summer and will be provided virtually by Early Intervention Specialists and Therapists.

At Dateline's deadline, discussion was continuing about the possibility of holding the summer Transition to Work (TTW) program virtually for older students.



Nisonger researchers interviewing adults by video chat/ phone calls

"Researchers" or "staff" at The Ohio State University (OSU) Nisonger Center want to talk to adults with intellectual disabilities (ID) to learn how they feel about their health and health care.

Nisonger staff would also like to interview support persons, family, friends, and care providers who know the adult with ID well.

Interviews can be done by video chat and phone calls. Both people will get a gift card for their time (up to \$75 each).

Sample questions about health include: (1) Are you happy with the health care you receive? (2) In the last two weeks, did your health make it hard to do things? and, (3) Do you feel sad a lot of the time, or do you feel sad only a little of the time?

Listening to people with ID talk about health is key to making health care better for the whole community.

- Learn more about Nisonger's work: <https://go.osu.edu/rrtc>
- Watch videos about the "Can You Hear Me Now?" study: <https://go.osu.edu/rrtc-youtube>
- Call the OSU team: 1-833-678-7782
- Email the OSU team: rrtcnisonger@osumc.edu

This study is funded by National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Grant #90RTHF0002.

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Thank you to all the individuals served, family members, Providers and Staff for working in partnership during this COVID-19 Pandemic to keep people safe, healthy and engaged.



Congratulations to Ben Hill for excellent service as a Bus Driver for the past 28 years and best wishes on retirement.

Thank you to Board member Renée Stein for representing parents and the Board on a radio show on WOSU radio.



Continued thanks to our Health Commissioners, the Franklin County Commissioners and Dr. Amy Acton and Governor DeWine for continued leadership during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Thank you to ECE Teacher Christine Hunter for representing FCBDD teachers and staff so well on WOSU Radio.

Congratulations to Special Olympian, Max Damron, who was recently interviewed by NBC-TV4 Sports Reporter Jerod Smalley.

Career Milestones

25 Years
Christopher Meek

15 Years
Amy Frick
Patrice Sanieel-Banrey

10 Years
Jessica Buchanan

5 Years
Taylor Guerrant
Julie Hall
Michael McLeish
Travis Sherick



Congratulations to the 2020 Graduating class and families of West Central School. You all have the distinction of being the first class to graduate virtually.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Amish family helps with masks

When face coverings were in high demand due to the Coronavirus, many were looking everywhere to find a resource.

After reading a story on Amish families sewing masks, Superintendent/CEO Morison reached out to another Superintendent in a northern Ohio county with large Amish communities to seek contacts. Two names were provided.

As a result, a contact was made with Kathy Miller and her family. Over 2000 cloth masks have now been delivered for use in Franklin County. Masks have been given to Providers and some will be used by FCBDD staff as staff return to offices and facilities.

Special thanks to Kathy Miller and family for filling an emergency need with quality work.



State Special Olympics Games cancelled

For the first time in over 50 years, the Ohio Special Olympics State Games, scheduled for June, 2020, had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Ohio Special Olympics had to make this call recognizing that the restrictions on mass gatherings and social distancing requirements were just too much to overcome.

Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison said "we are sorry to miss this event for our Special Olympians, but certainly understand and fully support the decision of Ohio Special Olympics. We will look forward to 2021."



Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Marie Crawford, Vice President
Michael Underwood, Secretary
John Bickley
Linda Craig
Renée Stein
William W. Wilkins

Superintendent/CEO **Jed W. Morison**

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or disability.

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www.fcbdd.org

Calendar

Editor's Note: The following calendar is tentative due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Call 614-342-5950 before attending any meeting to see if it is still scheduled.

June, 2020

- 11 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocate Advisory Council, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 17 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 19 **Postponed:** Guardianship Training, contact Angie Franke at 614-342-5972 for details.
- 25 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Finance, Human Resources & Ethics Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 25 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.

July, 2020

- 3 Independence Day Celebrated - all county facilities closed. 
- 15 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 23 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Finance, Human Resources & Ethics Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 23 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.

August, 2020

- 24,25 ECE and School staff returns - Staff Preparation/ Development Days.
- 26 First day of classes at West Central School.
- 26-28 ECE Program Service Days – Parent Visitation (No Transportation).
- 31 First day of classes, ECE - please consult program schedule.

The next issue of Dateline will be the July/ August issue printed in late July.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2020

Graduating Class

West Central School



Tribute to Our Graduates

Editor's Note: We salute the 2020 graduating class of West Central School operated by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. For the first time in the school's history, graduation ceremonies were held virtually due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We congratulate the graduates and also salute the families and staff who have worked in partnership for many years to reach this milestone.

Brenda Ardrey - Walnut Township Local School District

Brenda has only been in the school-age home instruction program a short time. She has a very strong bond with her family. It's quite easy to tell when Brenda is happy – she smiles so big and laughs when she hears or sees something she likes. She loves silly noises and things that sparkle and blink. Brenda likes to watch movies and interact with people. Her future plans include community field trips and a day program at the Heinzerling Community.



Eugenia Boateng - Columbus City Schools



Eugenia comes from a world of her own to deliver a bright smile and a small little giggle. She loves to explore especially on a sunny day. She enjoys riding the trike and walking for short distances. She is persistent young lady who knows what she wants and is willing to go for it, and yet is a very relaxed person. Eugenia always seems to find the sunshine even on the cloudiest days. Best of Luck, Eugenia, always look for rainbows!

Corey Cannon - Columbus City Schools

Corey came to live at Heinzerling as a baby. He is best known for his infectious smile and his big green eyes. He has always been a popular resident with the staff. He enjoys funny sounds and watching movies on his DVD player. Corey has participated in art, music, and adapted physical education classes. He has also been chosen to buddy with student volunteers from local high schools when they visit. His future plans include community field trips and a day program at the Heinzerling Community.



Diana Cardona - Columbus City Schools



Diana is full of life and spunk! She is fiercely independent and loves with her whole heart. She is willing to try anything, work or recreational. Diana loves yoga and walking to music in the gym. Her smile is contagious, especially to staff and to the people who received her Meals on Wheels delivery. Diana participated in the Transition to Work program where her interests were food service, retail and stocking. Job well done, each day is brighter because of your smile!

Luke Clements - South-Western City Schools

Luke is very passionate about keeping physically active and healthy. Luke is very happy with riding a bike, swinging, and taking walks. He is great at roller-skating and loves to swim. In addition, Luke enjoys participating in helping with recycling around school and listening to calming music. He loves to be on the move and explore the outdoors, especially animals at the Columbus Zoo. We will miss Luke and wish him luck in all that he pursues!



Tymeka Garrett - South-Western City Schools



Tymeka came to live at Heinzerling as a baby. She enjoys getting her hair styled and wearing fancy clothes. The highlight of her life was to dress up like a princess and attend prom at West Central. Over the years, Tymeka has participated in art, music, and adapted physical education. She has also participated in many groups with student volunteers from local high schools. Her future plans include participating in a day program at the Heinzerling Community.

Patrick Garcia - South-western City Schools



Patrick is a young man who enjoys the small treasures in life; Patrick enjoys "the search" of these treasures throughout his day. Patrick enjoys his time alone, along with cherishing the bonds he has with staff. He has such an amazing ornery smile that when he shares it with you, you cannot help but to smile along with him. "I'm an adventurer, looking for treasure," quoted by Paulo Coelho. Good Luck to your future, and keep hunting those treasures Patrick!

Quaran Gibbs - Reynoldsburg City Schools

Quaran is a very polite smiling young man with a good attitude who works hard to be a role model in the classroom and at his internships. Quaran enjoys music, rapping, basketball and being with his family. He loves to help others and is motivated to work. Quaran is currently participating in community job development with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. In addition, he was the 2019 RA Horn Outstanding Student Award recipient. Quaran is kind and an overall joy to be around. He will truly be missed!



Jacob Gibson - Reynoldsburg City Schools



Jacob is a mature young man who is friendly and loves talking and getting to know others. He enjoys participating in community events, dancing and is an avid reader. Jacob is a hard worker in the classroom and in community volunteering. Jacob participated in the Transition to Work program where his interest are books and literacy, pets and customer service. In addition, Jacob enjoys participating in Special Olympics Basketball. Jacob has developed long lasting relationships with his peers and others at Reynoldsburg High School. Jacob and his family have a lot to be proud of, we love you Gibby!

Zane Gross - Columbus City Schools

Zane loves the outdoors, is adventurous and an explorer. He loves all sports and swims like a fish. Zane enjoys making long shots in basketball and driving the ball to score in soccer. In addition, he likes The Ohio State Marching Band and is passionate about playing instruments. Zane is a hard worker at his volunteer jobsites and attended the Transition to Work program where he did well at physical labor, sorting and stocking, and cleaning. Best of Luck Zane, you will be missed!



Tarek Hamed - Westerville City Schools



Tarek is sweet and has an outgoing personality. He always greeted students and staff with a warm smile at the beginning and end of the day. Tarek loves to go in the community to shop and explore different sites. In addition, Tarek enjoys helping staff run errands around the building with a huge smile and a warm handshake. He also loves passing a ball, bowling, bocce and shooting the basketball. Best of luck Tarek with your transition and future endeavors. You will be greatly missed!

Emily Legg - Groveport Madison Schools

Emily loves to be on the go! Whether it is volunteering in the community or shopping, she loves to stay busy. In addition, she enjoys being outside walking and engaged in conversation. She has really improved in our Fitness Program at Franklin Park. Emily attended the Transition to Work program and did well at her volunteer sites. She has an interest in laundry, merchandise processing and cleaning. Hope your next adventure is as much fun as you are!



Caitlin Minnich - Columbus City Schools



Caitlin is a very sweet young lady who enjoys being around her peers and enjoys personal interactions with staff. She loves being in the outdoor and also loves dancing to different types of music. Caitlin has really worked hard on improving her independent skills and has come a long way with her time at school. We will miss the fun that she brought to the classroom. Good Luck Caitlin in your next adventure!

Harrison Peavley - Upper Arlington City Schools

Harrison is a "Beach Boy" at heart. He loves swimming and groovy tunes. He enjoys singing along with music and the piano. He likes shooting the basketball and is a champion when it comes to holding onto a hoop or a parachute during an activity. Harrison always has a cheery disposition and a song on his lips. Harrison brightens everyone's day with funny little sayings like "Bacon and eggs" and the laughter and smile that follows the comment is priceless! Best of luck, Harry we will miss you!



Vincente Phillips - Columbus City Schools



Vincente is a young man with a great sense of style who has a contagious smile and laugh. He loves music and personal songs sung to him. In addition, Vincente really enjoys watching sports live or on TV. Vincente especially appreciates individual time with staff. "A smile is a curve that sets everything straight!" Good Luck, Vincente, to a great future!

Jaron Rhodes - Columbus City Schools

Jaron is very social, has an infectious smile and does not seem to know a stranger. Jaron always makes others feel welcome and likes making new friends. He appreciates working and being out in the community enjoying what it has to offer. Jaron attended the Transition to Work program and discovered his interests are athletics, merchandise processing and retail grocery. In addition, he likes dishwashing and is able to do it with minimal amount of support. Jaron is very athletic and loves to be part of Special Olympics. May you always do great things with your talents and skills!



Taylor Schoonover - Hilliard City Schools



Taylor has the best sense of humor and an infectious laugh. She meets others with her beautiful smile and is always happy to be part of the group no matter the activity. Taylor is always the fashionista and very inquisitive. In addition, she is a genuine person and that will be missed along with her love for Taylor Swift! Best of Luck!

Amadou Sy - Columbus City Schools

Amadou is very peaceful young man who enjoys calm environments. He loves smiling and would often find joy by spinning in circles or enjoying open spaces. Amadou has a fond love for music and is a great dancer. He loved coming to walking group and if he heard a favorite song, he would do a little dance. In addition, Amadou looked forward to swinging outside to feel the warmth of the sun's rays on his face. Keep smiling in your future endeavors!



Brandon Walker - Hamilton City Schools

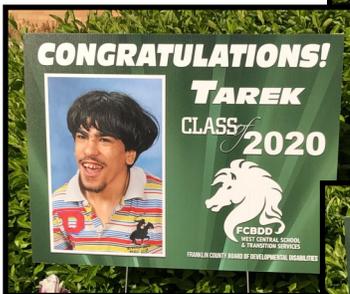
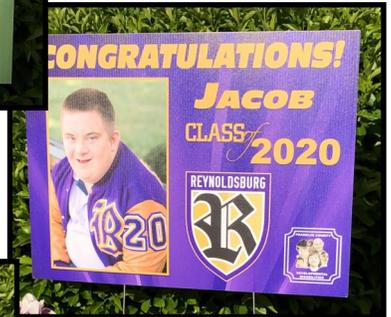
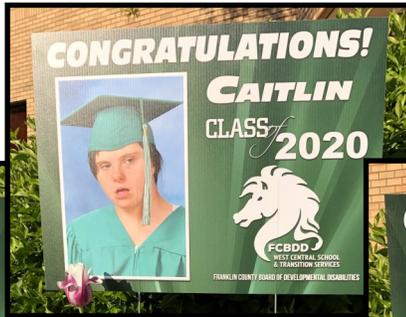
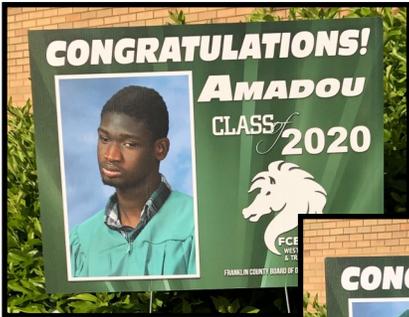


Brandon loves to be social and engage in conversations. He greets everyone that he knows by name, and brings joy and friendship to all those he meets. Brandon loves being part of all activities in class and sports. He knows how to put a smile on people's faces and provide excitement. Brandon was the student recipient of the 2019 Community Star Award. Brandon participated in the Transition to Work program where his interests are gardening and customer service. Good luck in your future adventures, we will miss you!

**Congrats to our
2020 Graduates!**

Congratulations to our 2020 graduates

- love the banners!



Our teachers salute you also...



Very special thanks to Jill Hicks for assisting in the organization of the verbiage, photography and permissions for this tribute to our graduates.

