

Franklin High School PTSO Newsletter

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We Appreciate and Value our Teachers ***An open letter to FHS Teaching Staff and Administrators***

The week of May 4th is National Teacher Week!

Tuesday May 5th is National Teacher (Appreciation) Day!

The National Education Association (NEA) describes National Teacher Day *“as a day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives.”* The FHS PTSO Executive Board fully concurs with this apt description, but will like to add the Japanese proverb *“Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher”* to remind FHS teachers and administrators that as parents who rely on your constant partnership to educate our children and prepare them for adulthood, we truly recognize and appreciate your commitment. To that end, we sincerely wish you the best during this celebratory week.

Historically, it is believed that the advocacy of a Wisconsin teacher, and independently that of a teacher in Arkansas were the reason for Eleanor Roosevelt’s persuasion, in 1953, of the 81st US Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day. Congress declared March 7th, 1980 as National Teacher Day for that year only. However, the NEA and its affiliates continued to observe Teacher Day on the first Tuesday in March until 1985, when the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) established Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May. The NEA Representative Assembly then voted to make the Tuesday of that week National Teacher Day.

Although the origin of the idea of ‘Teacher Appreciation Day’ is unclear, the certainty of appreciating FHS teachers, staff and administrators for their dedication and commitment to students is unambiguous. Therefore, on behalf of its membership the FHS PTSO Executive Board will demonstrate its appreciation to the teaching staff and administrators during ‘Teacher Appreciation Week’ by offering them a ‘Thank You’ Breakfast on Tuesday, May 5th.

We know that showing our appreciation to teachers shouldn’t be limited to this week only; however, the establishment of a particular time of the school year for recognizing their contributions reminds us of the continuing important role they play in our community. It’s also fitting that at the onset of spring, which coincides with the tail end of our school year, when budding flowers bloom and dormant plants become alive, teachers can be appropriately uplifted and rejuvenated by a jolt of appreciation and much needed support from administrators, parents and students. During this special week, parents are encouraged to acknowledge their children’s teachers and express gratitude for the commitment of these educators. We also ask administrators to recognize their teaching staff /colleagues with words and deeds of encouragement and support.

To our teachers, we are aware of the increasing demands on your profession, and the concomitant public pressure to ‘justify’ your craft within tight time constraints and dwindling resources. Despite these stress parameters, your continued efforts and commitment to educate our children is mightily appreciated. Although the gratitude from parents and students may not be immediately demonstrated, these stakeholders will continue to benefit from your expertise post their graduation from FHS. Without you and your great teaching practices, there will be no good education. Your daily hard work inspires our children to strive for higher academic standards and growth.

We Honor you!

We Respect you!

We Support you!

We Thank you!

Happy National Teacher (Appreciation) Week!