

Fort Hayes Opus

Volume 7 Issue 8 April 2025 Engaged

The mission of Fort Hayes is to create expectations of excellence within students through challenging and collaborative learning by blending the arts, academic and career programs.



Main Number (614) 365-6681

High School Office

7:00 am – 3:30 pm

<https://www.ccssoh.us/FortHayesHS>

Office 380-977-5640

forthayeshs@columbus.k12.oh.us

Attendance 380-977-6024

attendance.fhsarts@columbus.k12.oh.us

School Counselors:

Gillman: class of '27 & class of '25 (O-Z)
380-997-6186

Palmer: class of '26 & class of '25 (G-N)
380-997-5395

Plesea: class of '28 & class of '25 (A-F)
380-997-3410

Career Center Office

7:00 am – 3:30 pm

<https://www.ccssoh.us/FortHayesCC>

Office 380-977-6050

fhcc@columbus.k12.oh.us

Attendance 380-977-6139

attendance.ffccc@columbus.k12.oh.us

School Counselors:

Bryant: Health and Construction Arts
380-977-4890

Matunas: Visual and Performing Arts and
Automotive Technology
380-977-6052

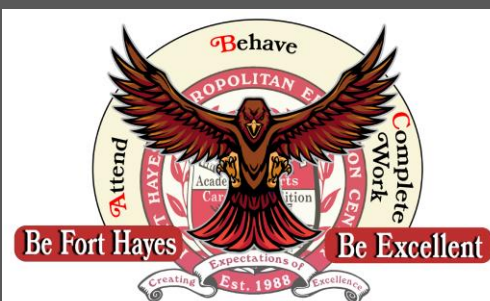
Main Offices

High School in Building 101

Career Center in CAATC & Health



The first annual Fort Awards, at Lincoln Theater started off with our very own Junior ROTC color guard, awards to outstanding students, and recognition of Dr. Ruffin for his dedication to Fort Hayes MEC.



Career Center Highlight:

The Blessing Box



Since the start of the 2024/2025 school year, the SkillsUSA Fort Hayes Health science PM chapter and senior Carpentry, and Masonry students have been working together to create a Blessing Box.

The SkillsUSA Fort Hayes Health Science chapter has spearheaded community service projects for several years. After working closely with the local teen drop-in shelter for youth experiencing homelessness (The Star House) for the past two years they realized that many students on Fort Hayes campus would benefit from a place where they could pick-up food and/or hygiene products on their way to or from school. While acknowledging the Fort Store exist, they wanted a place student could access items on an anonymous basis.

The SkillsUSA Health Science PM chapter created a proposal and submitted it to Mrs. Sanders and Dr. Ruffin.

They were given approval in early September and immediately requested the help of the carpentry students (Mr. Blake) to build the Blessing Box. Once they decided where to place the box, construction began. Mr. Minor's Masonry students put the finishing touches on the box by adding the bricks.

The Blessing Box IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS! It is located between the Construction Arts and Performing Arts buildings.

10 Tips to Boost Student Engagement

The post-pandemic classroom is presenting some unique challenges, so we want to empower you with strategies and ideas that will help you create a supportive and engaging environment for your students.

Create a Welcoming Environment

The classroom can be a "safe space" for many students. Adding lamp lighting, alternative seating, or soft music upon student entry are just a few ways to create a welcoming environment for you and your students.

Greet Students at the Door

By greeting students with a smile at the door, teachers can set the tone for the classroom ahead. Greeting students at the door can make them feel seen. Sometimes a smiling "Hello!" is the first positive interaction they may have had that day.

Engagement upon Entry (and Exit)

Preparing an activity or bell ringer for students as they enter and/or exit the classroom keeps students engaged throughout the entirety of the class. This proactive approach discourages students from using their phones or catching up with their friends.

Establish routines and expectations

Having a routine that students know they will need to follow encourages participation. Instead of using 1-2 minutes to settle students down or capture their attention, provide a structured routine to ease the transition into the lesson.

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...Boosting Student Engagement...

Reassess or Break your Routine

Once routines have been established, it's important to assess and reassess if a system is working. While consistent structure is important, don't be afraid to make adjustments or try something new! Plus, breaking up daily routines can spark interest and engagement when students are in a rut.

Bring the Energy

Passion is contagious! Students are more likely to mirror the energy that you bring to the class. Enthusiasm about a lesson or activity will likely increase student engagement.

Tie in Relevancy

A common misconception in the art room is that art is not relevant to the real world. Tying in relevancy to your lesson or methods in the classroom can guide students to understanding the "why."

Take it Outside

Utilizing the great outdoors for lessons can provide a change of scenery for not only students but you too! Capitalize on the good weather days to bring the class outside to create in nature or even create with nature.

Build those Relationships

One of the top classroom management strategies is building relationships with your students. Getting to know them as individuals can increase your effectiveness as a teacher and decrease the possibility of misbehavior.

Foster Collaboration

The importance of collaboration has never been more important. Fostering collaboration in the classroom is the first step to building a positive culture and increasing student motivation, retention, and self-confidence.

Fort Hayes Honor Roll Celebration at the Lincoln Theatre: A Night of Excellence

The Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School Honor Roll Celebration at the Lincoln Theatre was a resounding success, showcasing the academic achievements of our students. This event, an expansion of our "Defenders of the Crest" ceremony, brought together families and the Fort Hayes community to celebrate student success and leadership.

Students recognized for their outstanding achievements included:

- **Unified Arts:** Kayla Franklin
- **World Language:** Sherlin Molina Parra
- **Math:** Yaretzi Lucero Buitron
- **Science:** Tessa Pauley
- **Social Studies:** Khloe Powell-Juman
- **English:** Hajaratu Kamara
- **School Spirit:** Francheska Castillo Perez
- **Leadership:** Jaden Lanier



The evening featured memorable performances, including a lively band performance and an energetic routine from the dance team. A highlight of the night was when Dr. Ruffin, our principal, joined the band, adding an unexpected moment of fun to the celebration.

The event was made even more special by the families who came out to support their students, as well as the teachers and staff who helped make it all possible. It was a fitting tribute to Dr. Ruffin's leadership and legacy, reminding us of the bright future ahead for Fort Hayes.

[High School](#) **Family Ambassador Newsletter**
[Career Center](#) **Family Ambassador Newsletter**

School Calendar

Thursday, March 20

Shot Tower Gallery City Council Show: My Columbus – Professional Work and Student Show through April 15

Friday, April 11

“Hall Pass: A Musical Revue”
Performing Arts Auditorium 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 12

Saturday School
8:00 – 12:00 pm

“Hall Pass: A Musical Revue”
Performing Arts Auditorium 7:00 pm

Monday, April 14

Career Center Honor Roll Assembly

Wednesday, April 16

IKIC College and Career Fair

Thursday, April 17

Fort Fashion Show

:30 minute early release to begin Spring Break

Friday, April 12 through Sunday, April 24

Spring Break
(no students)

CCS offices closed
(Friday, April 12 through Tuesday, April 16)

Thursday, May 1

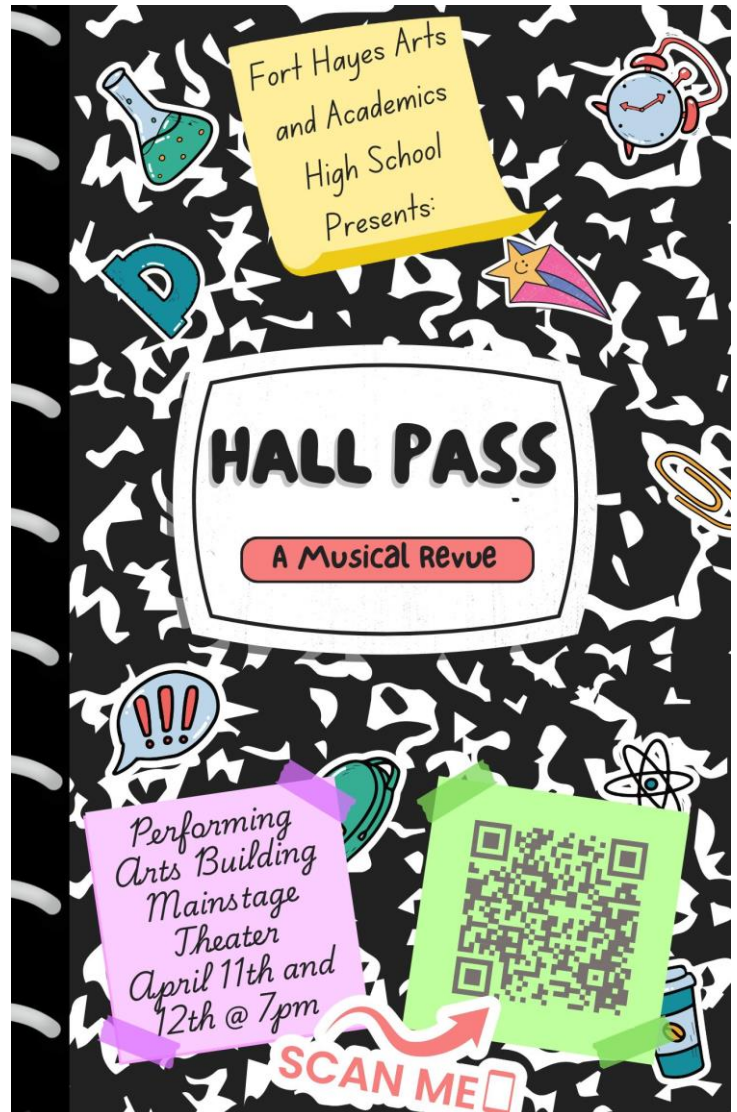
Career Center Music Concert
Performing Arts Auditorium 7:00 pm

Friday, May 2

Senior Luau

Saturday, May 3

Saturday School
8:00 – 12:00 pm



BE EXCELLENT.
BE THE EXCEPTION.
BE FORT HAYES.

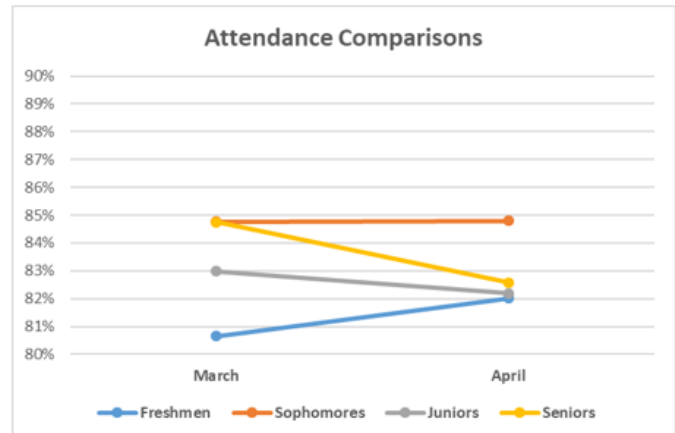
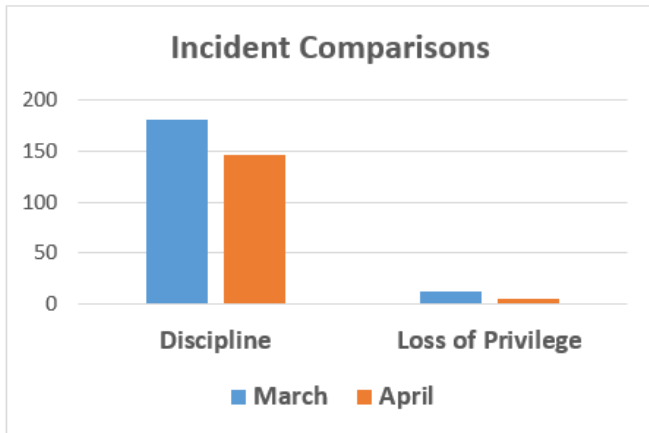
Focused
Organized
Resourceful
Teachable

Hardworking
Artistic
Yearlong
Engaged
Scholarly



Parent Page

PBIS Trending Data



News you Need to Know:

Ohio SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER

SPEAK UP

SAVE LIVES

By calling or texting the statewide tip line at **844-723-3764** you can anonymously report anything that is suspicious or endangering you, your friends, or your school.

COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS

Anonymously Report Safety Concerns 24/7

The Safer Ohio School Tip Line is a free safety resource available to all Ohio schools. The tip line is an anonymous reporting system that accepts tips via call, text, webform, and mobile app 24 hours a day. Anyone can download the Safer Ohio School Tip Line app or use the webform.

This tip line allows students and adults to anonymously share information with school officials and law enforcement about threats to student safety. Learn more at <https://ohioschoolsafetycenter.ohio.gov/>

The Parent Portal Access email address has changed and is now:

Parentportal@columbus.k12.oh.us

Please email this address if you need to change your password, if you need your activation code when setting up your parent portal access, or if you have forgotten your user name and password.