

Fern Creek High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 91266

Louisville, KY 40291

Return Service Requested



HOMEcoming WEEKEND 2020

The Homecoming Football game will be on October 9 at 7:30 PM. A dinner will be held before beginning at 6 PM in the Arnold Gym. It will again be catered by Mark's Feed Store. For \$15 each you can enjoy a great meal and a ticket to the game.

Our Food Literature students will again prepare and serve a great breakfast in the cafeteria at 9 AM on Saturday October 10. The cost is \$10.

The 23rd annual Hall of Fame induction luncheon will be held at 1 PM at Wildwood Country Club. The cost will be \$25.

To make reservations for all three of these great events go to our website: www.ferncreekalumni.com and make your reservation and pay using PayPal.



FERN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Tiger Tracks

FCHS - "Proficient, progressing, and proud"

Winter 2020

JOEY BAILEY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Life is about change, sometimes it's painful, sometimes it's beautiful, but most of the time it's both. Through its nearly 100-year history, Fern Creek High School has changed and since its inception, the FCHS Alumni Association has undergone change. And, today, we must once again announce a painful, but beautiful change.

In the fall of 2012, after being elected to Chair the Alumni Board, it was immediately apparent to me that we needed an Executive Director. My friend, Joey Bailey, had recently joined the Board upon my request. Knowing his extensive background in finance and accounting, and his love for Fern Creek High School, we didn't need to search far for a Treasurer then Director. And what a wonderful and marvelous eight-year-tenure it has been, from \$40,000 in a Money Market to \$350,000 in a Morgan Stanley Investment Account; a record-setting year of over \$150,000 for student needs bringing the total amount of Alumni Gifts given to the school to over \$1.8 million; funding for our new Ivy Plus program which continues to grow; an increase in the number of scholarships, now six for teachers and 10 for students; and every account showing a positive bottom line. But, what at first was a twenty-hour a week position has become a sixty-hour job. Too much to expect for a one-man, part-time position.

So, it is with regret that we must share that Joey has decided to fully retire in order to enjoy life with his lovely Creeker wife, Barbara, and their grandchildren, and to spend some time in Florida. He has assured us that he will continue

his relationship with the Board and school staff. In appreciation for his many hours and labor of love, we will honor Joey's request. For what has been we say, "Thanks!" and for what will be we say, "Yes!"

Your Alumni Board is assessing our needs for this leadership position and the best way to meet those, whether by a division of duties or contract labor. We are at work establishing a Job Description and criteria. As always, your thoughts and ideas are welcomed. Please feel free to send those to me, mgatton@bellsouth.net.

Change is hard at first, messy in the middle, and gorgeous at the end. While we know how difficult this news may be and how confusing it may become as we sort through and determine new direction, we are confident that the Creek has always risen to the occasion, and we will do so yet again. After all, creeks never stay the same. They are always flowing and changing. A lesson for our Association.

Mike Gatton,
Chair





PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As I reflect on my time at Fern Creek since 2010 and in my (relatively) new role as the principal of Fern Creek High School, I realize again how blessed our school is to have the support of our incredible Alumni Association. In speaking with other principals at other area schools, the difference that a truly robust Alumni Association can make is thrown in even greater relief than I initially believed. In simple terms Fern Creek is able to do what few other schools can do in terms of offering opportunities to our faculty, students and community.

This year we continue to expand the impact the Alumni Association has to a variety of faculty special projects and student groups. With Alumni support, our P.E. teachers were able to implement impactful student interventions like Yoga Training to help students deal with trauma in productive ways. Our Softball team was able to receive a much needed upgrade for their field. Our ROTC students were able to participate in rigorous leadership training. Our Theater programs was able to improve their sound system. Our Calculus teacher was able to implement rigorous lessons using a brand-new Smart Board. The variety and breadth of the Alumni Association's impact has never been greater and we continue to find new ways to reach students and support our teachers.

None of this would be possible without you and your support. In addition to all our Alumni Association does for our students, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the impact of our Alumni-sponsored Faculty Scholarships. So many of our faculty members are continuing their education, earning advanced degrees and special certifications that

allow them to continue their professional learning and improve their craft. To build a truly strong school culture and climate, we need to retain teachers. The scholarships the Alumni Association provides supports our teachers and strengthens the bond they have to our school. It crystallizes the concept that Fern Creek really is a family: a family with a long history and dedicated, caring Alumni who have committed themselves to the service of a place they love.

This year, your beloved alma mater has joined the Academies of Louisville initiative that links area schools with business and industries in the area to create meaningful learning opportunities and future career preparation. I was lucky enough to spend a morning at the Fern Creek Fire Department, just across the street, watching our students don fire gear and participate in a series of drills, crawling under barriers and through windows. Students who aren't always engaged in a traditional classroom have new opportunities through our Plumbing, Fire Science, and Family & Consumer Science Pathways. You would be proud to see all that they can do, and how our community has rallied around this effort. If you would like to know more about how Fern Creek has been impacted by these new Pathways, we invite you in to see for yourself. It's an exciting new day in the long history of our school and we cannot wait to see how these new opportunities will help our kids grow.

Thank you again for all you do for our school. You make so many good things possible for so many good people. We are truly grateful to be Tigers and look forward to the rest of a very exciting year.

Dr Rebecca L. Nicolas Ed.D.

CLASS REUNIONS

The 60th Reunion Year for the FCHS Graduating Class of 1960

The FCHS Class of 1960 will Celebrate their 60th Graduation Year during Homecoming weekend, October 9-11, 2020 beginning with Tailgate on Friday evening in the Arnold Gym, and Saturday Morning Breakfast in the Lunchroom, followed by a tour of our Alma Mater.

In the afternoon we will gather for a meal at a place yet to be determined. We are not collecting any money for the Saturday afternoon event. Each person will be responsible for their own cost, as we will order from the menu. We

would like to know who plans to attend the Saturday afternoon event in order to make definite arrangements.

We will gather for the Hall of Fame Event on Sunday Afternoon at Wildwood Country Club beginning at 12:30 p.m. Please submit to the FCHS Alumni Association your registration and money for their sponsored events.

Peggy Karem McClusky has recommended Drury Inn and Suites Louisville East, I-64 at Hurstbourne Lane for overnight accommodations. 833-677-0168.

Questions contact: Janice Deeb Gritton, Bonnie Norene Sturgeon, Pete Boyce, Peggy Karem McClusky or Debby Murrell. Please update your contact information and email address with both Jim Sullins and the FCHS Alumni Association.

Future updates will be on Facebook, email and the FCHS Alumni Association web site and next newsletter. Debby Murrell can be reached at 502-458-5152 or at dasailboat@msn.com.

The Class of 2000 will hold their 20th reunion on June 20, 2020 from 6-9 PM at the U of L Shelby campus conference and event center. The cost will be \$50 per person. A minimum of 60 reservations are required so there is a drawing for a \$25 gift card if you pay before April 15. For questions or for reservations and PayPal payment email the reunion committee at: fchsclassreunion2000@gmail.com.

August 1, 2020 will be the date for Class of 2010 reunion from 5-9 at O'Sheas on Main Street Downtown. The cost is \$35 for entry and a reunion shirt. RSVP is required with payment through PayPal by going to their FB page: FCHS Class of 2010 Reunion. They also have an email address for questions and inquiries: fchsclass2010reunion@gmail.com.

Any other classes planning a reunion for this year should send details to joeybaileycpa@gmail.com so they can be added to our website: www.ferncreekalumni.com.

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

The deadline for nominations is again June 30. Our website has the necessary details for making a nomination.

IVY PLUS ACADEMY

Today's FCHS student population is multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and highly intelligent. Many are first-in-the-family college candidates!

Our Ivy Plus Academy is an Alumni Association trademarked academic program. One purpose is to prepare qualified students for college, and to provide educational opportunities and funds to enroll them in academic studies.

Now, how does this affect us as Alums? First, it can become an extension of our appreciation for our course of studies while we were students. Second, as Alumni we can make a financial investment into the lives of our 21st Century Students, and their impact upon the world.

Here is the challenge:

This year our annual fund-raising goal for Ivy Plus is \$25,100. Every graduating class, for the past 65 years has a goal of \$400.00. (Some classes might easily give much more.) Individuals may send any amount to the Alumni Association. On your contribution, note your class graduation year. As contributions come in, each class member's contribution is added together with their peers. Coming together in this fashion we can easily raise the amount required, and anything above our goal will be invested for the next Ivy Plus Graduation Class. You may also give your gift in honor of, or in remembrance of a teacher or a classmate. No gift is too small, no gift is too large, and all gifts are tax deductible!

How about it Alumni? Which class will reach their \$400.00 goal first? Send your check or donate on line today, and help lead the way to keep the "Creek Rising into the 21st Century"!

Deborah A. "Debby" Murrell, Class of 1960
FCHS AA Board Member

