

Franklin Dance Marathon

Long before Iowa football fans began waving, Franklin Middle School students were giving their all to support kids with cancer at University of Iowa's Stead Family Children's Hospital. Our past fourteen dances have combined to raise over \$75,000, and we were looking forward to our fifteenth year. However, like so many events in the past year, our fundraiser will be a little different this year. While we cannot hold an actual dance, we will still be holding our "Money Mash" competition, selling t-shirts, holding snack sales (prepackaged items only), and challenging students to become "spirit dancers" by raising \$25 or more for the cause. In addition, we will have a competition between grade levels to see who can raise the most for our cause with a movie reward on the line.

For those of you who are new to Franklin, let us first explain why we do it. It started years ago with an eighth-grade language arts class writing some pen pal letters to a sick child. It then ballooned into a mini dance marathon complete with pizza and bake sales, in the hopes of helping more children. Unbeknownst to us our first year, we had a cancer survivor within our student body, who knew all too well the many struggles associated with cancer. Even harder to believe is the fact Franklin has had a cancer survivor or current cancer patient walking the halls every year since! It would be an easy year to just give up; everything about 2020 was a struggle after all. However, we know the kids and their families still need our help, especially after 2020!

So, we continue our work to support both our Franklin friends and all the children being treated for life threatening illnesses at the University of Iowa. The funds we raise provide for free summer camps, an annual Adventureland trip, crafts and activities at the hospital, improved facilities, wigs, holiday gifts, some family assistance and more! See below for more information on our fundraising activities. This is a great opportunity to get your student to earn some extra dollars for a very good cause while completing some extra chores around the house for you!

Virtual Donation Option

This can be utilized by virtual students if they would like to get involved, and all students can reach out to other family members to make a donation for their grade level. Simply go to the University of Iowa Dance Marathon website. Click on the green DONATE button in the upper right corner of the screen, and then type in Franklin in the "find a dancer" box. You can then choose which grade level you are supporting. A bonus donation will be made here each week for the grade level winning the in school money mash competition. Donations made here cannot be used for spirit dancer pledges, t-shirts, money mash totals, etc. However, this is a great way for grade levels to add to their overall totals in the race for the movie reward.

Snack Sales

Beginning January 21st, we will also have a snack sale each Thursday. We can sell prepackaged goods only, and cost will be \$1.00 each. Mrs. Dvorak and some of her student council students will be helping run this. Items will be placed on carts and wheeled to home rooms during the last hour of the day for students to make a purchase. We will be asking each grade level to make some snack donations. Some examples would be chips, Little Debbie's, candy bars, single serve cookie packs, or even Gatorades. Sixth graders will be asked to bring in one dozen items for the first sale on January 21st. Seventh graders will be asked to donate for the January 28th sale, and eighth graders will donate for the last sale on February 4th. Items can be brought in at any time, and should be taken to Mr. Jeffords in room 206 or to the main office. Thank you for any donations you can send us!

Money Mash

This coin battle between home rooms will have your children scrounging through the couch cushions for change! It is a math lesson on positive and negative numbers, as all **COINS count positively**. **Paper money and checks count as negatives** to lower the totals of your opponents. This year we will play by grade level, which is

why our virtual donation option has a choice between all three grade levels. Money Mash competition days will be the following four Thursdays: January 14th, January 21st, January 28th, and February 4th. Grade level winners will receive some small prizes each week of the competition.

Movie Reward

This is a new addition in place of the dance. One grade level will earn the chance for a movie reward in the auditorium. We will add online donations and spirit dancer donations to each grade level's final money mash total to determine the overall winner. **The grade raising the most funds overall will win.** For this reason, it will be even more important for students to identify their grade level on spirit dancer forms.

Spirit Dancers

Spirit dancers raise \$25 or more and turn that money into the main office. In normal years, they would get free admission to the dance, a free slice of pizza, drink, and a chance to throw a pie in a staff member's face. This year, Spirit Dancers will be earning an invite to the movie reward, whether their class wins the overall competition or not. Students turning in spirit dancer forms early will receive a treat bag, and I will also pull names each week to award a prize to a lucky spirit dancer. Our top three fundraisers will still be able to throw a pie in a staff member's face (thank you to Mr. Ptacek and Mr. Baylor) before the movie reward.

T-Shirts

"We're making GOOD THINGS happen in 2021" is our t-shirt motto this year. Cost is \$12. Order forms can be picked up and turned into the main office. Final due date for orders is noon on Monday, January 25th. We will have an online order option also through Ironside Apparel. FYI: Those ordering through the retail store online will have to pay a sales tax also. We will post that link on the Franklin website.