

Falcons fly with Friday school

By Adam Crozier

Principal **Kert Boedicker** said he makes student work ethic a top priority.

This includes mandatory academic assistance. One of the ways students receive help is through Friday school.

For example, if a student is earning Fs because of missing assignments this student attends Friday school from before the end of seventh period until 4 p.m. in the ISS Room. He or she may not understand the material and lack confidence and need help, said **Lucas Klipsch**, assistant principal. Friday school provides a quiet place and help from educators.

The benefits of the program already show, according to administrators.

"If you look at the grades from first quarter to first semester and compare how they started to how they ended up, there is a significant decrease in kids not doing well in their classes," Boedicker explains.

Sometimes Friday school students have a good attitude and are making an

effort to learn, but homework can still be challenging.

Klipsch said he can relate: His kryptonite was math.

"I was bad at algebra. I spent many nights at the kitchen counter with my mother. Not everyone has that."

Boedicker started Friday school as a way of helping.

Sophomores **Dylan Gunnell** and **Zaire Perry** said they benefited from this program.

"I'm glad that he cares, but it's not his responsibility—it's on me," Gunnell said. He started working in the Plato lab to retake geography class, but hopes to be a mechanical engineer because of his love of Chevy cars. Perry, who transferred from Crispus Attucks and Southport, said, "I think they care because they wouldn't try to put effort to help my grades otherwise." She's glad this school is offering time to submit late work for classes she struggles in, like geometry.

Boedicker wants to make all of Perry the place where students want to

learn and receive help to be successful.

"It's not the math you'll remember. It's your ability to think and deduct, the process you went through. It's the application of your learning," Boedicker said. "It's the most important thing you take away from high school."

He wants students to take what they're learning now and apply skills later in life.

"It's hard, because as a student, you live in the now," he said, noting that concentrating on enjoying and succeeding as a teen is important. But students still need to set goals for the next six years to ensure future independence and well being, he added.

After seven months as principal, Boedicker is fired up.

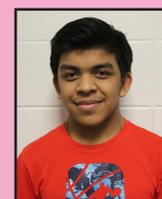
"The thing I appreciate most is that our students are receptive to what we believe in. I hope, optimistically, that will make an impact in their life. I know it will."

Student of the Month: Do you like Valentine's Day, and what are you doing for it?



McKenzie Great-house, freshman

"Yes, I like it a lot. Me and my friends are going bowling and then going home to watch movies."



Pengza Tihi, sophomore

"Yes, I like it. I am watching movies with my friends."



Hailey Hendricks, junior

"Yes, I like Valentine's Day. This year, I have rehearsals for Zap, where I'll be managing tech crew."



Luke Greenwood, senior

"Yes, I like it. I am probably just going to spend time with my family."

Empowered women empowering everyone



Junior **Ana Ramirez Herrera**, sophomores **Alejandra Aguilar**, and **Foluke Ajiboye** learn fun facts about the human body (Photo by Ximena Alaniz).

By Ximena Alaniz

Perry's dedication to leadership and unity among students led sophomore **Alejandra Aguilar** to initiate a club to help empower students.

"This club's goal is not only to empower women, but all genders," she says.

The positive environment within the club is meant to be an atmosphere that emphasizes comfort and positivity, members agree. Although the club is made up of girls, they welcome all genders to join their dedication to self empowerment.

Senior **Lauren Glackin** has felt the impact of this club on her outlook already.

"This club has helped me gain confidence in loving my body and has helped me build new strong friendships."

The club works together through activities and games that help with self esteem and confidence. They also discuss the struggles women face all around the world with gender discrimination.

They started this semester by having a fundraiser to help women and children who were victims of domestic abuse. The donations went to Sheltering Wings, a shelter for victims of domestic violence. Throughout January, the club has been selling candy and

plans to donate more than 30 percent of the profit to the shelter.

In March, the Women Empowerment Club will host author Laila Anwarzai, a native of Afghanistan and a professor of women studies at Butler University. She will discuss her book, *Nicki's Honor*.

This event will be during Blu63 March 14 and is open to all. Anwarzai's book is based on true events that still occur in many places like Afghanistan and Pakistan. The book focuses on the life of a young girl from the village of Pashtun in Afghanistan who becomes a victim of an honor killing. An honor killing is when family members end the life of one of their own because they believe their relative has brought shame or dishonor to the family name. This practice is especially common among girls and women.

"The club has began to read Anwarzai's book to help us gain more knowledge about a different culture and tradition," Aguilar says.

The book also discusses how women in foreign countries conquer their struggles through self empowerment, she adds.

"It will truly open our eyes to value all the opportunities both women and men have in the United States compared to other countries around the world."