

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Important Opening Info

Dear Fremont Community,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year! I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. This year the district will remain focused on improving student achievement, providing a safe and positive learning environment for our students, and strengthening our relationship with the Fremont community. If you share our desire for quality schools, I encourage you to join me in a continued effort to increase collaboration and to build faith and trust within the community. I have listed a number of committees that are comprised of Fremont's stakeholders and are currently operating within the district. If you are interested in engaging in problem-identifying and problem-solving activities and you would like to join a committee, please communicate that fact to me in writing. Please be certain to include your name, address and phone number so that I may contact you promptly. The committees are: Operations, Communications/Public Relations; Curriculum Quality Control Council; Finance/Audit; and Policy.

Additionally, if you are interested in helping the district with our new middle school levy committee, please call me at 419-334-5432. Lastly, I have included information that you may find helpful for the upcoming school year. Thank you and I look forward to working with you and your children this school year!

Sincerely,
Dr. Traci McCaudy

FREMONT CITY SCHOOLS OPENING INFORMATION 2008-2009

First Day of School

The first day of school for students in grades 1-12 is Tuesday, August 26th.

* Kindergarten Orientations are scheduled for August 26, 27, and 28th. The first day of school for Kindergarten is August 29th. Parents of Kindergarten students will receive additional information via postal mail or you may contact your child's school.

The first day of school for Vanguard Career Center-Technology Center students is Monday, August 25th.

School Building Times

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Elementary Schools: | 9:00 – 3:30 |
| AM Kindergarten: | 9:00 – 11:30 |
| PM Kindergarten: | 1:00 - 3:30 |
| Fremont Middle School: | 7:45 - 2:50 |
| Ross High School: | 7:50 - 2:50 |

Open House/Orientations/Student Schedules

Elementary Schools - Orientation for all elementary schools is Monday, August 25th, at 6:00 p.m. except Washington: Washington's orientation will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Fremont Middle School - New Student Orientation-Open House will be on Tuesday, August 12th: Teams 7A & 8A start at 5:45 p.m.; Teams 7B & 8B start at 6:45; and Teams 7C & 8C start at 7:45.

Ross High School - Students may pick up schedules on August 18th and 19th from 1:00-7:00 p.m. Administrators and counselors will be available to address questions and/or concerns. School pictures will also be taken during these dates and times, and picture packets will be available with instructions for ordering. Picture retakes are scheduled for September 22nd.

Transportation

Bus routes will be available in the *News Messenger* during the week of August 18th. Please contact the Transportation Office at 419-332-7351 if you have any questions.

Food Service

Full priced lunches for the 2008-2009 are:

| | |
|------------|--------|
| Ross | \$2.50 |
| FMS | \$2.25 |
| Elementary | \$2.00 |
| Breakfast | \$1.25 |

Parents can prepay online at www.lunchapp.com.

New Students

Welcome! Any families new to the district may contact the Office of Human Resources and Community Relations at 419-334-5436 for registration information.

Office Moves

The former Child Study Center located at Fremont Middle School has been renamed Student Services and is now located at the Fremont City Schools District Office at 1220 Cedar Street. The phone number remains the same at 419-334-3871.

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August 2008

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Fremont City Schools District Goals

1. Increase student achievement
2. Close socio-economic, ethnic and disability gaps in student achievement
3. Build hope, trust and respect with our community

Learn more about
Fremont City Schools at ...
www.fremontschools.net

Fremont City Schools are 100% Tobacco Free.
Thank you for not smoking on school grounds and/or at school events.

Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community



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Tips from Croghan

The summer has gone by so quickly and we are ready to begin a year of new beginnings. I am excited to share with you some great opportunities we will experience this year. Our theme at Croghan will be "Croghan today, College tomorrow". We are excited to feature Croghan's finest in our showcase in the main lobby each month. Each teacher will be featured throughout the school year sharing colleges attended, majors and personal goals.

School attendance is a key factor in school success. When children miss school, they miss opportunities to learn. This can hurt their grades and confidence at school. Research reveals some common family factors that affect:

Sleep routines.

Have your child go to bed at a regular, reasonable hour each night. Otherwise she'll be tired – and possibly late the next day.

Transportation.

Help your child arrive at school on time. If he/she takes the bus, be sure he/she gets to the bus stop a few minutes early. Thank you for working with your school!

A few dates to remember as we begin our 08-09 school year:

September

- 1 Labor Day No school
- 4 Kick Off Fundraiser @ 2:30
- 9 Picture Day
- 26 HarvestFest

We look forward to everyone joining us throughout the school year.

Atkinson and Ross welcome new leadership



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share my excitement about my appointment as the new principal at Atkinson Elementary School. I feel fortunate to be joining a school culture focused on student learning, a commitment to high expectations, innovation and collaboration.

I am a graduate of Ashland University with a Bachelor of Science in Education and from Bowling Green State University with a Master of Education in Administration. Throughout my career I have had the opportunity to teach several different grade levels

ranging from preschool to eighth grade.

I have been married for twenty-one years to my husband Michael. We have two sons Joseph and Samuel and of course Bruce, the boxer, our family pet. We enjoy traveling and being involved in my children's many extra curricular activities.

I look forward to becoming an important part of Fremont's community. It is my intention to carry on the important traditions and practices that represent a commitment to student achievement.

Yours in education, Diana M. McNulty

Gracy Hinojosa-Lloyd joins the Fremont Ross staff as its new assistant principal. Mrs. Lloyd formerly worked at Toledo Scott High School as a teacher and school leader at the School of Allied Health. She worked as a co-writer for a KnowledgeWorks grant that garnered \$1.5 million, which led to the implementation of career academies at Scott High School. She has been responsible for many activities at the high school including summer programs for students, professional development, and after school intervention programs. Mrs. Lloyd spent seven years as a Spanish teacher and has worked as an advisor for Spanish Club. She organized Homecomings, Proms and Graduations. She earned her degree in Spanish from The Ohio State University (1997) and her Masters in Education Administration from The University of Findlay (2008).



Mrs. Lloyd is married to Chris and they reside in Toledo with their dog JD. She is an avid Buckeye and Cowboys fan, spends time shopping for bargains at flea markets and loves to watch movies with her husband.

Otis in '08-'09

The 2008-09 school year will bring some changes to Otis Elementary. We welcome some new staff members, a wonderfully clean and readied building, and a new theme to carry us through... Oh, the places we'll go after Otis Elementary!

Throughout the course of the year we will research and share information about exciting places and opportunities that await our leaders of tomorrow when they leave Otis. Continue to look for these ideas throughout the school year on the main bulletin board in the hallway outside the office. Every month, different grade levels will share their ideas of what could await us after our years at Otis. It will be exciting to watch these ideas change and grow from month to month. Please plan on starting the year off right at Open House on August 25th and then continue that support as we grow throughout the year!

Stamm Parent Involvement = Stamm Student Success!



Research reveals many benefits when parents are involved in their child's education, including higher grades and test scores; better attitudes and behavior; better school attendance; more homework completed; greater likelihood of graduating from high school; and a better chance of enrolling in postsecondary education.

Showing an interest in your child's education, setting high expectations for achievement, and letting your child know you believe in his or her abilities promotes positive growth and achievement.

Parents can reinforce the importance of school by speaking positively about their children's teachers and counselors. Making sure your child gets to school on time also conveys importance of punctuality. At Stamm School the first minutes of the day are crucial for setting the schedule and tone for the entire day. By attending open houses and parent teacher conferences and by answering notes and calls from teachers children will see how parents value their education as well.

Parents can strengthen their connection with school by reading the Stamm Newsletter that is distributed at the beginning of each month. Stamm can also use help with its Parent Teacher Organization. Stamm's active PTO plans the Annual Chili Supper and other worthwhile events. Parents can also get to know their children's teachers and can spend time at Stamm as a volunteer or visitor. In doing this, parents can see directly how their child is doing with class work and how their child interacts with other children. If parents cannot spend time at Stamm because of work or other commitments, they can still connect from home by offering to call other parents to notify them of school events or by helping with the school newsletter.

By getting involved in their child's education, parents will promote the building of a bridge between the home and school. Stamm will do its very best to ensure that EVERY parent feels welcome and valued for ultimately, we know that parental involvement is more important to student success than any other factor.

Curriculum Update

Ohio Achievement Test Parent reports will be sent home with students the first week of school for all students in grades 3-5 last school year. Parents of students who were in grades 6-8 last year will receive the parent reports with their school's first newsletter.

Teachers met this summer and previewed four sets of Foreign Language materials. *Realidades* for Spanish and *TPR Storytelling* for French will provide updated teaching resources to enhance the learning experience. New Government textbooks and Economic resources will be ready for the Senior Government students replacing very out-dated books. There will be additional textbook studies in other curricular areas as the school year begins.

Healthy at Hayes

Throughout the year, the third-grade has held healthy snack sales each month in order to earn money for The Kids on the Block puppet show. The puppets are operated by two puppeteers, Brenda Engle and Kay Barbour from Holland, Ohio. These ladies travel to schools in 13 counties of Northwest Ohio.



Each character is a child with a different disability. One puppet is blind and shows the students how he uses Braille to read and can even play baseball with a special beeping ball. Another puppet explains how she is cognitively delayed and works at a veterinarian's office through a school-to-work transitional program.

This program was very informative and eye-opening to our third-graders. They really enjoyed the way the information was presented with the puppets and asked some great questions. The third grade students and teachers would like to thank everyone who supported the healthy snack sales to make this program possible at Hayes School.

Eagle TV at Lutz

Every year at the beginning of the school year, Lutz Elementary School has try-outs for its Eagle TV News Show. Children in sixth grade can compete for the anchor positions, 5th graders compete for the sports/weather positions, 4th graders compete for teleprompter positions, and finally, all students in grades 5 and 6 can compete to be camera operators.

Once selected, children are put into teams and are on-air for a week at a time. They are responsible for arriving to school early and preparing for the day's broadcast. Each morning at 9:00 AM all classrooms are tuned in to watch the morning news. At the end of the school year, Lutz has an award ceremony.

At this ceremony, Emmy awards are given to the outstanding anchor and sports/weather person. During the 2007-08 school year, Bryce Dukeshire was voted by the teachers as the outstanding anchor and Peri Weaver was the outstanding sports/weather person. Children are learning valuable skills by participating in this activity. All children enjoy watching Eagle TV daily.



Tips for success from Mr. Arnold

Well, here we are only a few days away from another exciting school year. I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you and your children back to Washington School for another fantastic school year. Along with these tips, I want all Washington parents to know that my goal is to make sure we are doing our best to help your child succeed socially, emotionally as well as academically. As always if you feel as though I can help you with your child in any capacity, please do not hesitate to contact me. I truly look forward to serve your family as the Principal of Washington Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school year. Enjoy the rest of your summer; I'll see you in a few days.

Sincerely,
Mr. Arnold

Tips for Parents: Starting the New School Year Right

The beginning of a new school year can be the start of a journey toward success if parents, students and teachers work together. Here are some suggestions from National Education Association for parents who want to help their child start the new school year right.

The First Day Jitters

Start talking now about the upcoming school year and the first day of classes. Discuss what to expect on the first day—catching up with old friends and meeting new ones, learning classroom rules and finding out what's ahead. Take note of how you feel about your child going off to school. If you're anxious, try not to let it show!

If you're new to the area, take time to visit the school before classes begin. Walk, drive or show your child the bus route to familiarize him or her with the trip to school.

A Place of One's Own

Whether it's a bedroom desk or the kitchen table, every child needs a regular place to study and complete homework. This area should be well lit and equipped with school supplies like paper, pencils and a dictionary. Siblings should respect the time set aside for studying and not distract the child who is doing homework.

Kids (and Parents) Love Routines

Set aside a specific time for studying every night. Discuss with your child what time of day would work best; right after school? Just before dinner? Immediately following dinner? If your child attends an after-school program, find out if students will be expected to do homework there. If your child completes homework assignments away from home, plan to review the work at a set time every night. If homework has already been completed, have the child use study time for reading or reviewing problem areas.

Create High Expectations

To learn, children must believe that they can learn. As the parent, you are the most important adult in your child's life. The feedback you give your child—what you say and do about his or her abilities—will have a lasting impact on your child's self-confidence. Be encouraging and praise your child for the amount of effort that he puts into a project. Let her know that doing her best is what counts.

Reading Can Be Contagious

Research shows that children who are read to in their early years do better in school. Make reading a habit in your home, for both you and your child. Each night before bed, read to your child for at least 20 minutes. If the child is learning to read, ask him or her to read to you. For older children, set 30 minutes aside each night for family reading time when everyone reads together silently. Keep plenty of reading materials available—books, magazines and newspapers. Let your kids see you reading and they're more likely to pick up the habit.

Schools + Communities = Success

To be effective, schools need the support of parents and the community. Find out key dates during the year when there will be opportunities for you to participate in school events. Mark your family calendar and your personal date book now to hold those dates.

Look for specific ways that you can support your child's school. Volunteer a few hours a week in the classroom. Offer to speak to your child's class (or others) about a special hobby or area of expertise. Encourage a local business to adopt your child's school. Join the PTA to ensure that you have a voice in the work of the school. Offer to help with a special school project. Organize a school beautification day.



Thank you, Fremont!

Thanks to the Permanent Improvement dollars levied for the district, building improvements continued over the summer of 2008. Fremont Ross has a new Duro-Last roof that was installed by Damschroder Construction. Sidewalks were also replaced at the various locations of the Ross campus. This work was completed by Smith Paving of Norwalk. Mosser Construction reduced the chimney at Fremont Middle School and completed tuckpointing and an overhang repair at Stamm Elementary. Tile work, completed by Bower Tiling Service of Clyde, was performed at Atkinson Elementary. M&B Asphalt of Old Fort repaired/replaced catch basins in the Hayes Elementary parking lot.

New Director of Student Services



“The only thing constant is change” has new meaning for the special education department in Fremont City Schools. With a new Director on board and the increased need for special education and general education to collaborate to serve all students, many things will look different in 2008-09. Tim Cullen, a Fremont native, is now the Director of Student Services for Fremont City Schools. “Student Services” truly describes the comprehensive nature that this department addresses on a daily basis through direct instruction, interventions, collaborative teaching, counseling, and other supports in each of our buildings. As communication and collaboration increases with district-wide curriculum tools and supports, each child will benefit and truly receive a “special” education each day they come to school.

AlertNow Notification System

Keeping parents and employees informed is a top priority of Fremont City Schools. That is why we will be implementing the AlertNow notification system this year.

This notification system is an online service and will allow district personnel to contact parents for reasons, such as, school cancellations (snow days), rescheduled athletic events, 2hr. delays, student attendance. Phone calls, messages, email and text messages would be used to contact parents.

This service will allow us to provide important information about school events and/or emergencies provided the school district has your current contact information. To ensure that the school district has the current contact information, Fremont City Schools will perform a “test message” telephone call to all parents and employees on September 3, 2008 at approximately 7:00pm. More information about this new system will be provided in a letter home and/or future news articles.

Jarod's Law

In 2006, the Ohio General Assembly passed Substitute House Bill 203, also known as Jarod's Law. This bill requires sanitarians from local health departments to conduct annual inspections of the school buildings and associated grounds contained within their jurisdictions to identify health and safety concerns. As part of this legislation, Ohio Administrative Code chapter 3701-54 was created. This chapter includes the regulations that school buildings must comply with, and that local health departments must enforce during their inspections.

The areas that are inspected are:

Grounds and Building Exterior – playgrounds, solid waste disposal areas, and outdoor athletic facilities.

School Indoor Environments – hallways and stairwells.

Specialty Classroom Areas – science, visual arts, and industrial arts classrooms, stages, and music and family/consumer science classrooms.

Administrative and Non-Classroom Areas – auditoriums and student dining, library/media centers, indoor athletic facilities, locker rooms, training or weight-lifting rooms, restrooms, custodial closets, mechanical rooms, attics/mezzanines/crawls, water/wastewater systems, and health care areas.

After the inspections are complete, reports are provided to the schools identifying corrective action to be taken. Some examples you may see when you visit our buildings are: cafeteria tables in all elementary buildings have an additional safety latch at the top of each table to help prevent tipping while in a stored, upright position, and all buildings will have “No Idling Zone” signs posted outside to help reduce emissions. Behind-the-scenes health and safety actions being completed are things like chemicals must be stored in special cabinets, and building roofs must be annually inspected.

This law has required many additional costs to the district and general fund dollars will be used so that the district is in compliance with the law. Fremont City Schools is committed to the safety of your children and we will strive to continue to make our facilities safe for optimal learning experiences.

Saying Goodbye to Ross



Kameron Allicock celebrates his graduation from Fremont Ross High School on June 8. The graduating class of 2008 graduated 274 students.