

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Sept.
2013

New Report Card Format from State

Dear Fremont Community:

Several weeks ago, the Ohio Department of Education released a newly formatted report card based on the spring 2013 student test scores. I am very pleased to report that the district made the following improvements on the 2013 report card:

- Grade 3 made gains in both reading and math.
- Grade 4 made improvements in math.
- Grade 5 made gains in all tested areas (reading, math and science).
- Grade 8 made improvements in both reading and math.
- Ross High School met all performance indicators in reading, math, writing, science and social studies in grades 10 and 11.
- The four-year graduation rate increased from 81.7% to 88.3%.
- The district received excellent scores in the value-added measure.
- The district's overall student attendance rate was 95.37% in 2012-2013.



Based on the value-added student data, Fremont City Schools ranks 413 out of 814 school districts in Ohio.

The district continues to make student achievement its first priority and I commend the teachers, students, administrators, support staff, parents and community partners for their diligent work this past year.

Starting this school year districts/schools will no longer receive designations like "Excellent" or "Effective" on the report card. Instead districts/schools will receive letter grades A-F on specific student performance measures. Listed below are the measures for the new report card and the letter grade Fremont City Schools received for each.



1. **Performance Indicators:** The performance indicators show how many students have a minimum, or proficient, level of knowledge. Indicators are based on a series of 24 state tests that measure the level of achievement for each student in a grade and subject. For each test, it is required that at least 75% of students score "proficient" or better to get credit for the corresponding indicator. This is commonly called "meeting" the indicator. Fremont City Schools met 16 out of the 24 indicators. Grade: D

2. **Performance Index:** The performance index measures the achievement of every student, not just whether or not they reach "proficient". Schools receive points for every student's level of achievement. The higher the student's level, the more points the school applies toward its index. Fremont City Schools received a score of 94.7 out of 120 possible points. Grade: C

3. **Value-Added:** The value-added measure recognizes that districts/schools may be making significant improvements in the academic performance of their students even though they may not meet the standard for student achievement. While achievement scores demonstrate a student's level of proficiency at one point in time, the value added measure reflects how much progress was made since the prior year. Value-added results are calculated for districts/schools with grades 4-8 in reading and math. The letter grade "C" indicates that a district/school has achieved one year of expected growth for their students over the past year. (Continued on page 2)

Strong Academics

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Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community

New Report Card Format from State continued

- All students: (overall rating of a school or district)
- Gifted students: (math, reading or superior cognitive only)
- Students with Disabilities: (all students who have an IEP and take the OAA)
- Students in the lowest 20% of achievement statewide (based on distribution of scores for the entire state)

Fremont City Schools received the following grades: Overall Value-added: Grade B; All Students: Grade C; Gifted: Grade C; and Lowest 20% of Achievement: Grade C

1. Annual Measurable Objectives: The annual measurable objectives measure the academic performance of specific groups of students, such as racial and demographic groups. Each of these groups is compared against the collective performance of all students in Ohio. This will allow Ohio districts to determine if there are gaps in academic achievement between groups of students. Ohio has made strides over the years to reduce these gaps, however, much work still is needed to eliminate achievement gaps and bring all students up to the same level of achievement. Fremont City Schools received a 54.9% on annual measurable objectives. Grade: F
2. Four-Year Graduation Rate: The four-year graduation rate includes as graduates only those students who earn a diploma within four years of entering the ninth grade for the first time. Fremont City Schools had an 88.3% four-year graduation rate in 2012. Grade: C
3. Five-Year Graduation Rate: The five-year graduation rate includes those students who graduate within five-years of entering ninth grade for the first time. Fremont City Schools had an 85.6% five-year graduation rate in 2011. Grade: C

In addition to the aforementioned measures, several new measures will be phased in over the next several years. Districts and schools will receive a component or overall grade on reports cards beginning in August 2015. The 2013 report cards will be posted on the district's web site once available from the Ohio Department of Education.

Sincerely,
Traci McCauley
Superintendent

Exciting Learning at Atkinson



In math this year, third grade teachers will be teaching the new third grade common core state standards. The students will be learning multiplication and division facts, using a variety of methods. They will also be learning about fractions and how a fraction is a part of a whole. The students will be able to make equivalent fractions and be able to compare fractions by using a model. A new and exciting addition to our building will be the Chromebooks, which are portable computers that the students will be able to use in all subjects. This will be very exciting for the students and teachers. It will give the students an opportunity to get accustomed to computers.

Mrs. McBride is the third grade science, social studies and writing teacher at Atkinson Elementary. After reviewing several school rules during the first week of the 2013-2014 school year, the students began writing about their

first week as a third grader. They included information about what they learned, who their new friends are and goals for the school year. Soon we will begin science, and the students will be learning about Earth's resources. We will also be reading a Scholastic News Weekly Reader throughout the year, which provides students with articles about current events around the world focusing on science and social studies topics.

Pictured in the photo is Mrs. Kimball reading to her third grade class. She is reading the book First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg. Students enjoyed learning that the teacher was the character in the story who had the first day "jitters". When they finished the read aloud, students engaged in writing about a time that they were nervous.

Curriculum Corner

The week of August 19-23 brought hard work, anticipation and celebration throughout Fremont City Schools. New teachers attended an orientation to gain information of district offerings and items to make their year function smoothly. The district staff came together to celebrate our accomplishments of the 2012-13 school year and prepare for the 2013-14 school year! To support the district's wellness goals, we enjoyed a speaker who encouraged us to laugh, eat healthy and find balance in our lives, so we can be at our best every day. The Fremont City Schools staff participated in professional development that will prepare them for the new school year. Staff members received information on the new Ohio Teacher Evaluation System, new curriculum and the ever-changing world of technology in our schools!

Learning at Lutz

Students at Lutz Elementary spent part of their first day of school reviewing the expectations in the different areas of the building. Students learned proper behaviors in the cafeteria, restrooms, hallway, assemblies and playground, as well as arrival and dismissal procedures. This is due to the school's implementation of a new discipline strategy entitled Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS).

The goal of the program is to demonstrate the desired behaviors and provide incentives for those who display those behaviors. Receiving acknowledgement for appropriate behaviors creates a positive atmosphere for cooperation and learning. Pictured below: Lutz students Max Kelly and Jenna Ollom demonstrate the proper way of storing playground equipment.



Memorial Hospital Care System's "Family Fest" will take place Sunday, September 29th, 2013 from 1-4pm on the front lawn of Memorial Hospital. Come participate in Fremont City Schools' Quarterback Challenge and Parachute Palooza. "FREEBIES" and "FUN" for ALL!

View video clips of our Fremont City Schools students...

Character Education Creates a Positive School Environment at Croghan School



Come and check out the positive atmosphere at Croghan Elementary School! All Croghan students are continuing to participate in lessons and activities about the importance of a person's character. Students are already feeling more connected with each other, and teacher-student relationships have been strengthened, as well. Our first character focus this year is respect.

One student from each classroom will soon be selected by his or her homeroom teacher for regularly demonstrating respect in September. This child will be the Student-of-the-Month, and he/she will be rewarded by being invited to enjoy pizza with the principal!

The character traits of focus for the 2013-2014 Students-of-the-Month are: October-Responsibility; November-Work Ethic; December-Caring; January-Self-Control; February-Cooperation; March-Fairness; April-Trustworthiness and May-Citizenship. "Our character is what we do when we think no one is looking." – H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Character Building at FMS even in the Summer! What did you do this summer to help in your community?



Jaron Burns,
"I cleaned my dad's house."



Dalton Warwick,
"I helped Dad around his house."



Ja'wan Parks,
"I helped my mom watch my siblings."



Terrell Mason,
"I mowed the backyard."

Even though you might get the summer off from school doesn't mean you stop learning and building your character by helping others with whatever they need help with!

First Day Down at Washington!

The rain didn't dampen our spirits on the first day at Washington Elementary as buses unloaded at the backdoor in an attempt to keep students dry. Students gathered in the gym for the "Pledge of Allegiance", morning announcements and a commitment to "Be Respectful", "Be Responsible" and "Be Safe" each and every day. Classrooms were all abuzz with opening day activities and organizational protocols. As I took a stroll down the hallway, some of the things I heard were: fifth-graders learning "The Star Spangled Banner" in music class to prepare for November's Veteran's Day Program; fourth-graders labeling language arts notebooks and second-graders partaking in a pencil sharpening marathon. All of these things may seem simple, but they are necessary to establish consistent routines and solid expectations that ensure a year of academic success for all students. Pictured above: Dean Hetrick and Veronica Bowlus, fourth-graders in Mrs. Traczek's class smile for the camera as they are listening intently to directions to prepare themselves for the year. There is no doubt in mind that each and every student will make Washington proud! ~Submitted by: Bridget L. Smith, Washington Principal



Welcome to Otis

One of our goals at Otis is to give everyone a sense of belonging. As part of our PBIS Plan (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports), the year started out with a school-wide assembly. Our principal, Mrs. Bryant, shared her expectations with the student body. We reviewed the idea of being a "bucketfiller" that we've learned in previous years. This philosophy uses the idea that everyone comes to school each day with a bucket, and our words toward each other either fill up someone's bucket or put a hole in it.

This year there are 24 students in grades 1-5 who are new to Otis. Students try to make these kids feel welcome by including them at recess, helping them in the classroom and showing them around our building. Teachers welcome students with a personal phone call, and our principal and school counselor check-in with these students regularly throughout the year to ensure a smooth transition. Otis has a reputation for being a wonderful and warm place to be, and all Cardinals work hard to keep that tradition going strong. So, "welcome" to Otis!



"Hitting To Heal"

On September 3, the girls' volleyball team hosted a "Hitting to Heal" event. The girls partnered with St. Joe Catholic School to help raise awareness and funds in memory of Alexa Brown. All the money raised stays in our area and helps the many families impacted by the Clyde Cancer Cluster. T-shirts for this event were sold in both the athletic office and finance office at the high school. Students who purchased the shirts were able to wear them to school on Tuesday, September 3 and received free admission to the game that evening against St. Joe. Many people came out to support not only the Lady Giants volleyball program but also the Alexa Brown Foundation and those in our area affected by cancer.

Attention: Senior Citizens

All Fremont residents who are sixty-five (65) years of age, or older, are eligible for a complimentary pass to all school activities, including school plays, musical performances and athletic events. If you would like a permanent "Senior Giant" activity pass, please contact Desiree Subara at 419-332-6454 or visit www.fremontschools.net (Communications Tab) and click on "Senior Pass" for an application and mailing instructions.

Visit www.fremontschools.net and Click on Communications

Hayes Announcements Get Facelift Positive Behavior Rolls Out at Stamm



In the past, Hayes announcements were read over the PA system every morning by fifth grade students. This year the announcements are being videotaped with a flip camera giving the announcements a “facelift”. A copy of the tape is then put into Dropbox. Teachers can access Dropbox from their computers and show the announcements on the SMARTboard. Teachers will have the freedom to show the announcements when their class is ready. This flexibility is helpful for classes that have specials first thing in the morning.

The goal is to grab students’ attention and help them to tune in to the important information given daily.

This new way of doing announcements gives fifth graders a chance to test out their “TV” reporter skills. It is not as easy as it appears on TV. Students need to be able to look out and read a script along with adding in the current lunch menu and other current events. Fifth grader, Rachel Haitonic, took the plunge and had the first chance to try her reporter skills out. She did a great job delivering the announcements while keeping a big smile. Rachel is a student in Mrs. Sloma’s class. Hayes hopes to improve their program by adding more technology into the production and creating special editions featuring Hayes students’ projects and accomplishments. Who knows maybe someday one of our star reporters will be on television! Submitted by: Susan King

FCS Child Nutrition Department

Free/reduced meal applications must be renewed before 10/8/2013. To renew, you can go to www.lunchapp.com or fill out a paper application. Application renewal letter will be given to the elementary students the week of Sept. 9-13. Application renewal letters were mailed in the US mail to Ross High and FMS students during the week of Sept. 9-13. If the application runs out, meals will be charged at full price.

The preschool classes that are ½ day are offered a free milk program and all preschool students are offered an in-class snack. These programs are available to us through the Ohio Department of Education.

The Healthy Snack program for grades preschool through 5 will begin on 9/16/2013. Students in these grades will be offered a fruit or veggie snack 3 days a week.

In September we offered fresh plums, pears and apples through our Farm To School partner, Eshelman Fruit Farm. Most of the apples that we serve come from this fruit farm, which allows us the availability of offering more varieties of apples.

All schools offer “take what you can eat” fruits and vegetables daily as part of the meal. If students are extra hungry, there is a variety of fresh or canned fruits and fresh veggies available for them to choose from. We encourage students to “take what you can eat” to help reduce waste.

Over the summer break, we installed a new serving line at Ross High. This line provides much more room to offer a variety of fruits and vegetables daily.

Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying

The Sandusky County Family and Children First Council, via the Bullying Prevention Committee, are hosting a Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying event on Saturday, October 5, 2013. The event will be held at the Fremont Rec Center and will begin at 9am. Registration and Packet Pick up begin at 8am the day of the event with the 5K Run, Walk, Roll beginning at 9am. The cost is FREE for those 18 years old and under and \$12 for others. The Pre-Registration deadline is September 20, 2013. Race shirts are available to the first 100 registered. Visit: www.sanduskycountycfc.org for more information.

Positive Behavior Intervention Support is also known as “PBIS”. This program has been developing during the last school year, and now Stamm School is ready to roll it out to the students and families. The focus of this program is to teach our students positive behaviors in different scenarios that are applicable to school. The staff modeled expected behaviors to the students in an assembly on August 27th. Staff and student will spend two days practicing appropriate behaviors through the established lesson plans and earning opportunities to “clip-up” on their classroom behavior chart. The students will receive positive reinforcement in forms of verbal praise and incentives for being observed in making good choices and behaving well. In choosing to behave appropriately and making wise choices, students will have ample opportunities to earn incentives, participate in raffles and role model for others. This program is supported by the entire Stamm staff and is expected to help improve the culture and climate of our learning environment. Pictured above: Mr. Barbour, Mrs. Almroth, and Mrs. Stephan role play how to behave appropriately in the hallway.



Athletic Dept. News

-Ticket Prices for Football Contests:

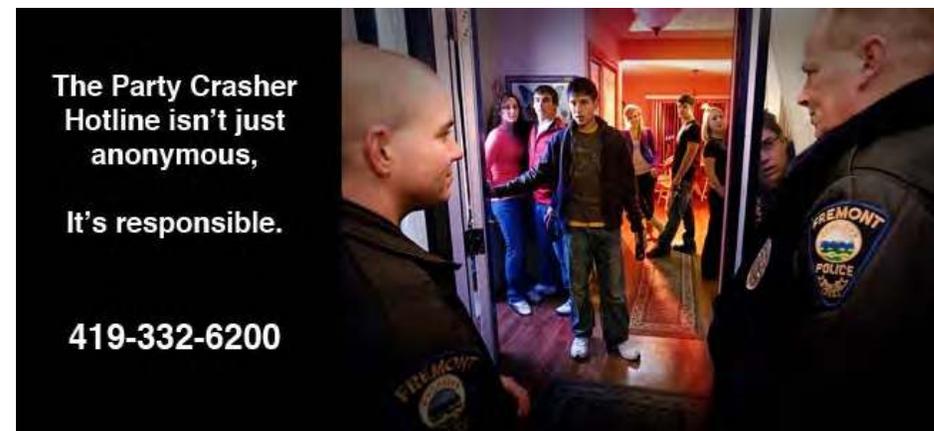
The Three Rivers Athletic Conference has agreed to alter ticket prices for the 2013 season. Beginning this year each TRAC school will now promote and sell pre-sell tickets. The presale ticket prices will be \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students and senior citizens. Presale tickets will be available for sale in the athletic office from Monday until noon on Friday of each week. All tickets purchased at the gate will be \$7.00.

-Stadium Rules:

The start of another season of Little Giant football is quickly approaching. In order to provide the best fan experience for all, the following changes have been made for all varsity football contests and will go into effect this 2013 season:

-Admission: Middle school students will no longer be permitted to enter the game without an accompanying adult. High School students will need to produce a school issued identification card in order to enter the contest without parental supervision. High school students who fail to bring their ID cards and FMS/elementary students who are not accompanied by a parent will not be granted access to the game.

-Student Section: Middle school students will no longer be permitted to sit in the student section as was the practice in previous years. Only students in grades 9-12 along with members of the Ross High School marching band will be permitted to sit in the student section. Middle school students who attend the athletic contest should sit with their parents.



The Party Crasher
Hotline isn't just
anonymous,

It's responsible.

419-332-6200