

FCS rolling out online learning lab for new school year

Craig Shoup, Fremont News-Messenger Published 8:48 p.m. ET Aug. 24, 2018



(Photo: Craig Shoup/The News-Messenger)
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FREMONT - When the [Electronic Classrooms of Tomorrow shut down](#) in January, around 20 students in the Fremont City Schools District were left without a school.

As Fremont City Schools opens the year Tuesday, a new electronic classroom that mimics ECOT and other charter schools is coming to Fremont during the 2018-2019 school year.

The new Personalized Learning Center will cater to students who prefer an alternative to the traditional education provided by schools in the area, according to FCS superintendent Jon Detwiler.

PLC will be offered to students at Ross High School, Detwiler said, as an alternative to traditional forms of education.

"Right now, we have about 15 kids signed up," Detwiler said. "John Cahill will lead the program."

Detwiler said a committee will determine the eligibility of a student who seeks to enroll in PLC.



Jon Detwiler, Fremont City Schools superintendent, said general contractors Mosser Construction and Gilbane will hold a community outreach and local business participation meeting Tuesday for businesses to learn about how they can serve the estimated 1,500 construction workers coming to town to build five new schools. (Photo: File)

"It's really an exciting opportunity," Detwiler said. "These are kids that we would lose to charter schools, or ECOT, so we get them back in the district."

The school is also preaching safety heading into the new school year, with the addition of a second School Resource Office, Detwiler said.

Last spring, Jim Burkin, a veteran officer of Fremont Police [became the first SRO in nearly two years](#).

"This is our response to the tragic things that are happening right now," Detwiler said, referencing school shootings.

This fall, Burkin is joined by Sandusky County Sheriff's Office Deputy John Johannsen, a three-year officer at the sheriff's office, who will work with Burkin to protect students and staff from threats.

"I think we can make a big impact in the community," Johannsen said. "I have four kids of my own, so I'm ready."

Detwiler said Burkin and Johannsen will be mobile, with Burkin stationed at Fremont Middle School and Johannsen to be stationed at Lutz Elementary School.

"They are going to work on safety in the classroom and D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) during the school year," Detwiler said. "They will be able to go to any school at any time."

As the school year draws near, Detwiler noted the district is in the midst of finalizing designs for a new Ross High School and four new elementary buildings.

"We are getting ready for construction," Detwiler said.

Dirt is expected to begin moving in the fall with construction on new buildings slated for next spring with a tentative open date of August 2021, Detwiler said.

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