

# PLC gives Ross students different learning path

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Kerri Hosang, an intervention specialist at Fremont Ross High School, works with sophomore Ashanti Elkins on her language arts argumentative essay Tuesday at the school's personalized learning center. (Photo: Daniel Carson/The News-Messenger)

FREMONT - A traditional classroom learning environment doesn't work out for every high school student.

Fremont Ross High School teachers and administrators started a new initiative this year to help those students that benefit from a mix of conventional classwork and online courses.

The school opened its new Personalized Learning Center in August.

John Cahill leads the PLC program at Ross.



**John Cahill, pictured left, heads the Personalized Learning Center program at Fremont Ross High School. Senior Deryante Hardin talked to Cahill Monday in the PLC lab at Ross. (Photo: Daniel Carson/The News-Messenger)**

"Our goal down here is to give the kids hope," Cahill said, as he walked into the PLC lab on a recent school day.

Cahill said there are morning and afternoon PLC classes, where students can get help from teachers and tutors or pursue workforce development pathways that allow them to take online classes and learn about welding, construction and other skilled trades for the rest of the day.

There is also a credit recovery for students who may have previously failed a course and need to recover credit to meet graduation requirements, Cahill said.

He said there have been students that came into the PLC program at the start of the school year that were not on pace to graduate, but had caught up in their credits and class work.

Kerri Hosang, an intervention specialist at Ross, worked with sophomore Ashanti Elkins on her language arts argumentative essay during one recent session.

Elkins said she was arguing in her essay for stricter gun laws.

Some students in the PLC, like Elkins, are on track with their grades and course credits, Hosang said.

She said she has students on IEPs (Individualized Education Programs) that need to be in the PLC for credit recovery.

"I think it's a great place for them to do that if they apply themselves," Hosang said.

Senior Deryante Hardin said he is on track to graduate this year from Ross.

Hardin needed to work on his algebra class work in the PLC lab.

He said the PLC program helped him get his work done quicker.

After he graduates, Hardin wants to study business in college and open his own small business someday.

Cahill also doubles as Hardin's varsity basketball coach.

"He just makes sure you're on track. He doesn't want you to get behind," Hardin said of Cahill.

Cahill said that, while most students in the PLC had not done well in a traditional classroom or are trying to catch up on credits, sophomore Marizza Cortez is working to get ahead on her coursework and graduate early.

Cortez, 16, worked on a language arts class assignment as she sat next to senior Isaiah Kelly.

Within the next month or two, Cortez will complete enough math and language arts course work to complete her sophomore year and become a junior at Fremont Ross.

"Any of the stuff I know, I can do myself instead of going at the other students' pace," Cortez said, adding, "It just goes faster."

The PLC utilizes a computer-based curriculum with interactive core courses correlated to the state's curriculum, according to the district.

Cahill said Ross Principal Brian Zeller came to Fremont from Vermilion Local Schools, which had a similar personalized learning program.

He said Ross' program had certain unique qualities because of where the school is and its close proximity to employers that need skilled labor.

"There's a lot of places reaching out to us that need workers," Cahill said.

Cahill said the new Fremont Ross High School building, scheduled to open in 2021, will have its own personalized learning center.

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