

New school year gets off to a smooth start in Fremont

[Craig Shoup](#), Fremont News-Messenger Published 9:36 a.m. ET Aug. 27, 2019 | Updated 9:39 a.m. ET Aug. 27, 2019

Construction continues on 5 new school buildings



Construction will dominate the new school year at Fremont City Schools as the district continues work on four new elementary buildings and a new Ross High School. *(Photo: Daniel Carson/The News-Messenger)*

FREMONT - Summer's unofficial ending is here as thousands of students trade sleeping in for waking up to catch the school bus as several schools began a new school year Tuesday.

Fremont City Schools, Clyde-Green Springs Schools and Woodmore Local Schools all opened their doors to a new school year Tuesday.

Gibsonburg students will start their 2019-2020 school year Wednesday and students at Bellevue Local Schools began their school year last week.

But Fremont City Schools will have a different year than most schools in the area as construction continues of four elementary buildings and a new high school.

"Construction is going well," FCS superintendent Jon Detwiler said Tuesday. "We are on time and on budget."

The District locked in a guaranteed maximum price of \$49,732,823, which has come in handy as tariffs threatened costs for steel.

Of the \$49,732,823 approved by the board of education, almost \$48 million is co-funded between the state and school district, with \$1.8 million locally funded with the district's permanent improvement dollars or levy funds.

"I think we've gotten through the worst of the tariffs scare," Detwiler said.

[Site work has begun](#) as the district looks to ramp up construction during the school year so builders can begin working inside before the snow starts to fly this winter.

Fremont City Schools is using a staggered start at Fremont Middle School, with Tuesday being open to just sixth grade students. Seventh and eighth graders will begin their school year Wednesday, Detwiler said.

"We had a good morning," Detwiler said as students arrived Tuesday. "The big test will be releasing the high school and middle school at the same time."

Plans are in place to make busing and drop-offs and pick-ups go smoothly, but Detwiler said when hundreds of students are released at the same time and parents are jockeying for position to pick up their children, it can be chaotic.

While construction may dominate the school year, Detwiler said the district continues its focus on educating students and preparing them for careers after school.

In addition to its current partnership with Terra State Community College in pairing students with two-year degree programs and skilled trades, FCS has partnered with Bowling Green State University to provide post-secondary college credit for students taught by district teachers.

"We've always had a good relationship with Terra, but we wanted to offer that four-year option," Detwiler said.

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Dozens of students came pouring out of Ross High School Tuesday as the first day of school ended around 2:30 p.m. (Photo: Craig Shoup/The News-Messenger)

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Cars leave Ross High School after they lined up in the parking lot. (Photo: Craig Shoup/The News-Messenger)

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Cars pick up students leaving Ross High School Tuesday as school officials hoped for a smooth student release as construction continues at the high school. *(Photo: Craig Shoup/The News-Messenger)*

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Students at Fremont High School can take five courses that count towards college credit, including introduction to biology, pre-calculus, introduction to statistics, personal finance and literature and culture.

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