Fremont City Schools

Farewell Open House
February 5, 2012
Today’s Highlights:

Please visit the Atrium (lobby) to see the following:

♦ FMS Memorabilia Displays

♦ Please sign our guest book and share your favorite FMS memory

♦ FCS Alumni Association: Connect with fellow alumni and join your association

♦ Cat’s Meow - Purchase an old or new FMS Cat’s Meow! Brick paver order forms for the new FMS are also available.

Room 138 features our “A Walk Down Croghan Street - Remembering FMS” video created by Kim Beardmore, Julie Lockyer and Brent Parker. The video features former students and staff sharing favorite memories of FMS.

Refreshments are being served in the Cafeteria, take home a FMS favorite recipe!
MAPS OF THE BUILDING

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

THIRD FLOOR PLAN
**Dates in History**

1816

First school house built of rough, unhewn logs on the current site; several school structures followed, including Union School in the mid-1800’s

1891

Central School constructed
Northeast corner of Garrison and Main (now Park Avenue)
The bell from the bell tower is now the Victory Bell at Harmon Stadium

1909

Construction of Fremont High School began
Included only the front of the building facing Croghan Street
Cost - $80,000

1923

East and west wings constructed
Included the first gymnasium with spectator seating

1930

Addition built facing Garrison Street
Housed most of the junior high classes

Constructed by Steinle-Wolf Construction Co.

The W.W. Ross High School dedicated in February 1931
paying tribute to the former Superintendent

The last class graduated from the building in the spring of 1958
Fremont Junior High School created, Robert Seele, Principal

1980

Renovation and addition to southwest corner

Cafeteria and gymnasium added
Atrium constructed
Air shafts covered to form art and music rooms
BUILDING LAUNCHES NEW EDUCATIONAL TRADITION

Roy Wilhelm, New-Messenger Columnist

More than a half-century after debate raged in Fremont over the location of a new high school, the completion of Fremont Middle School should put to rest the doubts that contributed to the controversy.

In the 1950s, the Croghan Street building housed high school and junior high students, as it had done since it was dedicated in 1911.

But despite the fact that the school was bursting at the seams with students, there was plenty of controversy over the new Ross High School building.

Many wondered why more construction was necessary.

After all, voters had given approval to a building program in 1950. That $1.85 million program completed in 1953 provided new buildings for Atkinson and Hayes School, major additions to Stamm, Croghan and Lutz and improvements to the Croghan Street high school building.

But school officials had to turn to voters again in 1955 as Atkinson School and the high school building were in need of expansion or improvements.

That $2.9 million plan won approval, but fired debate about the new high school’s location, design and land needs.

When the Dillon farm site on North Street was selected, the debate about land needs heated up.

The asking price was $2,000 per acre for all 88 acres. The board offered $800 per acre for a minimum of 30 acres and a maximum of 45 acres.

A committee appointed by board President Orvil Otermat negotiated the purchase of the entire 88-acre site for $95,000 and the deal was approved in July 1956.

Many challenged the need for so much land. For some time, it might have seemed excessive.

But look at the site today. The sprawling Ross High building, which opened in the fall of 1958, has been joined by bus and maintenance facilities, an impressive outdoor sports complex, the community-driven swimming and wrestling facilities and now the new middle school.

How much of that could have been accomplished with 30 acres?

The Fremont Public Schools campus is a source of community pride.

It’s also the apparent end of a nearly 200-year era of education in the block on Croghan Street.

The community’s first school, a primitive log building, was built on that site in 1816. It was followed by a succession of structures, including one that was burned down in 1834 because a cholera patient died there and a high school building dedicated in 1911.

A number of improvements followed during the next century.

Today, the new middle school continues a tradition of educational efforts locally.

That 1816 log building, for instance, was built by volunteers and teacher salaries were paid by residents’ contributions in those early years.

Later, Fremont was among the early Ohio communities to adopt the graded or union school plan in Ohio.

According to Ohio State University professor George W. Knight’s “History of Educational Progress in Ohio”: “In the early schools of Ohio, as of every other state, all the pupils sat and recited in one room and to a single teacher and any systematic gradation or classification was impossible, even if proposed. The chief impediment was lack of suitable and sufficient school buildings. Where two or more schools existed within a village or city the pupils were divided geographically, not by grades, among the several schools. Pupils of all ages and degrees of advancement sat in the same room.

“The first systematic gradation and classification of pupils in Ohio was in Cincinnati, between 1836 and 1840, by virtue of a special law, dividing the city into districts and providing for a building in each district.”

Special legislation established graded schools in a number of Ohio communities, and then the Akron law was passed in 1847.

That law organized Akron into a single district and provided for the election of a school board authorized to establish a number of primary schools and one central grammar school, and to fix the terms of transfer from one to another.

Two years later, a general law was passed enabling any town of 200 residents to organize in the same way.

In 1850, Fremont voters approved the reorganization of the schools, calling for the grading of schools, a district including several school buildings and a governing board, among other developments.

The grading of schools officially became a reality three years later when the Union School at the corner of Main Street (now Park Avenue) and Garrison was completed. It was the first Fremont school building housing only high school students.

In early years, the grading of the schools amounted to primary, secondary, intermediate, grammar and high schools. While students would advance from one level to the next, there was no formal course of study to be followed from year to year.

That system of graded schools has continued with major variations and formal courses of studies developed. The middle school became part of that late in the 20th century.

Now, the middle school becomes part of the Fremont campus on North Street and a new era begins in the educational tradition of the community.
Salvage Items - Fremont Middle School

The following items will be, or have been, carefully removed from the Croghan Street Fremont Middle School and incorporated into the new Fremont Middle School or other FCS buildings:

- 1891 Central School Cornerstone at back hallway near locker room
- 1909 Cornerstone near northeast corner
- 1910 Dedication Plaque
- 1923 Cornerstone near northwest corner
- 1930 Dedication Plaque
- British Soldiers (Battle of Fort Stephenson) commemoration plaque (to be re-dedicated on site)
- Auditorium hanging and ceiling mounted light fixtures
- Auditorium ceiling woodwork
- Gymnasium floors
- Auditorium double doors on east wall
- “Door to nowhere” in Gym A above ladder
- Exterior flag pole
- “Fremont Junior High School “signage
- Decorative cast pieces below the FJHS sign
- Pre-cast pieces to the sides of front pillars
- “Anno Dimini MCMIX” signage
- Tile at front entrance doors
- Terrazzo floor at back entrance
- Inset cast flowers at southeast corner of building
- Door overhang on exterior southeast entrance
- Landscaping plants
- “Welcome to Fremont Middle School” sign in lobby
- Miscellaneous free-standing wood cabinets

Additionally, newer furniture and lockers will be used at other school buildings. All SMART Boards and computers will be installed at other FCS buildings. All student plaques and school trophies have been moved to the new FMS. The Exchange Club Freedom Shrine will be installed at the new FMS.

Auction Information - Fremont Middle School

Saturday, March 3, 2012
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Auction Open House: Thursday, March 1, 2012 from 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.
An opportunity to view items that will be auctioned on March 3rd.

A complete list of items to be sold at auction will be available after February 13th at www.bakerbonnigson.com

Old FMS and Ross lockers will be sold at auction.

During the FMS demolition, bricks will be placed outside of the fence for public to take.
Pre-sales of a Cat’s Meow of the new Fremont Middle School are also being accepted now.

Proceeds will also be used for materials for the Fremont Middle School Media Center.

Information above applies;

Note in your e-mail that this is for the “History in the Making” - New Cat’s Meow

You will be notified when items are available for pick up in the main office at FMS
FREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVE PAVERS  
“Have your Name on a Piece of History”

Fremont City Schools is offering commemorative paving bricks to be installed at the entranceway of the new Fremont Middle School. The cost is $100 per brick and each brick can be personalized with up to three lines with 13 spaces per line.

To create your lasting memory, simply complete the attached form and mail your check payable to the Fremont City Schools, 1220 Cedar Street, Suite A, Fremont, Ohio 43420. Remember- this a tax-deductible contribution!

Examples of brick inscriptions: (maximum of 13 spaces for each line...letters, spaces & punctuation included)

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<th>Smith Family</th>
<th>Class of 2012</th>
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<td>1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12</td>
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<th>Go Giants!</th>
<th>In Memory of (Name of Loved One)</th>
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Name________________________________________

Address_____________________________________

City_________________________ State_________ Zip__________ Phone__________

Check Enclosed__________ Amount__________

Personalization: (3 lines up to 13 characters per line...including spaces and punctuation)

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Please return check and form to: Superintendent's Office
Fremont City Schools
1220 Cedar Street, Suite A
Fremont, Ohio 43420
Faculty and Staff

Anthony Walker, Principal
Susan King, Assistant Principal
Laramie Spurlock, Assistant Principal

Brandy Abdoo  Randy Macko
Tamra Andrews  Linda Mange
Lamar Baker  Tamara Martin
Kimberly Bell  Tim Merrill
Renee Bissett  Carrie Meyer
Matt Bucci  Jeffrey Miller
TJ Buckley  Mindy Miller
John Calhoun  Tamara Miller
Penny Carnicom  Marilyn Missler
Emily Celzic  Tammy Mittelhauser
Beth Cooper  Brenda Myers
Heather Covert  Tina Myers
Paula Cullen  Janet Myles
Elizabeth Dennings  Kristin Osborne
Carl Detzel  Brent Parker
Jennifer Dick  Erin Parker
Troy Dull  Todd Plaunt
Tracie Dye  Dr. Trisha Prunty
Sandy Emrich  Andre Pursell
Susann Engle  Bryan Reyes
Hilary Frater  Amanda Ruble
Lori Gadberry  Linda Schalk
Lori Gallagher  Michael Schuppenies
Rachel Gangwer  Julia Schwert
Mindy Gedeon  Ellen Shawl
Katie Gerber  James Sherer
Lynn Grear  Sam Slater
Colleen Hankins  Dawn Sloma
Alice Hasselbach  Angela Slater
Amy Herr  Christine Smith
Shawn Hineline  Ila Smith
Chad Hoffman  Brittany Speck
Tami Hottinger  Julie Steinle
Kim Huffman  Adam Steinmetz
Karla Huss  Betty Sterling
Brandy Ivy  Kay Stierwalt
Darren Johnson  Nicole Strong
Felecia Kanney  Karen Swartz
Rhonda Kaple  Carrie Wallick
Edward Kennedy  Susan Weaver
Sandy Kimmel  Mike Wehring
Monica Kohler  Alexandra Williams
Michelle Lajti  Susie Wilson
Kay Leighton  Nick Wolf
Catherine Lewis  Thomas Ziebold
Kathleen Linder  Kay Zienta
Larry Logsdon  Judy Zyski
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Marc Glotzbecker
Alex Gorobetz
Linda M. Hershey
Juanita Sanchez
Cindy Young

Traci L. McCaudy, Ed.D.
Superintendent

David M. Chambers
Treasurer

Mission Statement

The mission of Fremont City Schools is to develop well-educated, life-long learners prepared to be responsible, productive and respectful members of their communities.