

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community



April
2016

District Report Card 2014-2015

Dear Fremont Community,

The Ohio Department of Education recently released the District's report card from the 2014-2015 academic year. I feel that it is necessary for me to address some of my concerns with that report.

Fremont City Schools, as well as other Ohio districts, has discovered many errors with the data reported. As well, the reliability and validity of last year's testing process has also raised serious concerns. Last year, students were tested on new content (Ohio's Learning Standards) in new assessment formats. Students also spent considerably more time testing than in previous years. Faced with a wide range of concerns from school districts, the Ohio Department of Education identified so many problems with the PARCC test that they are no longer using that assessment.

An addition, the results of the report card have been of little assistance to our District. In previous years, the State report cards have provided school districts with valid student achievement data in a timely manner so that school improvement planning could take place in the beginning of the new school year. This year, school districts received their student achievement data just one month before the 2016 spring testing schedule began. Furthermore, as noted, the data included on the 2014-2015 district report cards has been significantly compromised and much of it cannot be used for school improvement planning purposes.

As expected, Fremont City Schools did not fare well on the state assessments and as a result, we have been issued a report card that is below our standards. Prior to this new accountability system, Fremont City Schools saw significant improvements in student achievement data and several years ago, the District was recognized by the Ohio Department of Education for achieving an "Excellent" rating on its report card. Additionally, Croghan Elementary School and Washington Elementary School were named "Schools of Promise" by the Ohio Department of Education.

As Superintendent of Fremont City Schools, I believe in the highest standards and in a fair State accountability system. The report card system has never been the most comprehensive approach for measuring the overall quality of a school district and because of the aforementioned reasons, the 2014-2015 report card is even less of an accurate picture of what is happening in Fremont City Schools.

I am very proud of the work the staff and students are doing in the District. I am very proud of the vast number of community partnerships and volunteers who spend countless numbers of hours helping our students. We are always striving to do better and we consistently assess and improve our District's strategic plan. We continue to aspire to meet the highest standards.

My concerns about the 2014-2015 State of Ohio Report Cards are shared by many superintendents, Boards of Education, educational organizations, legislators, parents and students; we have voiced our concerns to the Ohio Department of Education. In addition, recent articles in Ohio newspapers have discussed the flaws of the 2014-2015 report cards.

As Superintendent of Fremont City Schools, I expect to be held accountable. I welcome accountability and I demand accountability. Fremont City Schools will continue to work diligently on our commitment to excellence and we will work in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education to meet and exceed the highest State standards. I will, however, also stridently advocate for responsible, reasonable and accurate assessments by the State of Ohio so that our efforts are fairly and clearly represented to all of Fremont's stakeholders in quality education.

If you wish to view the District and or building report cards, please visit the FCS web site at www.fremontschools.net. When you do so, please consider the thoughts that I have shared with you in this letter.

Please call me if you have any questions or wish to discuss this further. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent



“I Matter” Program at Hayes



Phi Theta Kappa, an Honor Society at Terra State Community College, recently presented their service learning project, “I Matter” to the third graders at Hayes Elementary. This positive and uplifting session gave students the chance to reflect on why they matter to their friends, family, school, community and truly to themselves. Using the book, *I’m Gonna Like Me* by Jamie Lee Curtis as the foundation of the project, students were inspired to

make and decorate a t-shirt listing why they matter. Popular themes seemed to be “I Matter” because: I am kind, I am a friend, I am a hard worker, and I am loved! A special thanks to Jeremiah McGowan, Phi Theta Kappa Vice President, for reaching out to Fremont City Schools and Hayes Elementary to bring this wonderful program to our students.

Making Craters



Collaborative learning is one of the best learning strategies that can be utilized in the classroom. Fifth graders at Stamm

Elementary work in groups often to attain higher levels of thinking and retain the information longer. In Mrs. Hanson’s fifth grade science and social studies classes, students often work in groups for centers and lab work. When in science, students are often exposed to standards in other subject areas. During this specific lab, students utilized the metric system while learning about the moon. To participate in this lab, students needed to demonstrate proper safety procedures as learned throughout the year. By using sand and different objects, the students experimented with how craters are made on the moon’s surface. Students also discussed the variables in their lab work that affected the outcome. Not only did the lab provide a hands on experience for the students to connect to as they continue their learning, but it allowed them to work collaboratively to accomplish the task at hand.

SAVE THE DATE!
Dignity & Respect
Event
Saturday, Aug. 20, 2016 • 9 a.m.-5 p.m. • Downtown Fremont
Food, Entertainment, Youth Activities and more!
Call 419-333-4012 or 419-332-8696 for participation information

Out of the Mouths of Babes at Washington



The first-graders at Washington Elementary celebrated the milestone of becoming 100 days smarter this year. Why is 100 such a big deal? Because it’s a big number with three digits is what Casen Schwochow told me. In her journal Brylie Palm wrote that if she were 100 she would read the newspaper in a rocking chair. Alek Albrecht said if he were 100 he’d probably be dead, but if not he’d have a mustache, walk with a cane and probably have a bad back. Macie Bassett wrote, “I’d look like a grandma. I would like to read magazines. I would not like to go outside or get presents on my birthday.” The little ones are never afraid to tell what they really think!

Music Helps Learning at Lutz



The students in the resource room at Lutz Elementary are using new ways to stay actively engaged. The students have different learning styles and drastically different interests. Their teacher, Ms. Lawrence, keeps this in mind when teaching her students. When working on intervention strategies for reading and math, the students are able to use their hands for a kinesthetic approach and music is often implemented when teaching these skills. One of the students states, “When we get to use the xylophone during learning time it helps me remember decimals and place value.” The class recently used the xylophone for decimal place value, reading short fluency phrases, and counting syllables in words. The bongos have been used for reading passages or stories. The playing of bongos brought rhythm to their reading and really enhanced their fluency. It also seemed to give them more confidence with their reading skills. This strategy, in conjunction with other research-based interventions, keeps the students engaged and more willing to learn new things. Ms. Lawrence has learned from experience that music is a powerful learning tool, and many days it seems to make the classroom a happier place.



2015-16 3rd Quarter Insert



Washington Students Jump Rope for Heart

35 students participated in fundraising for Jump Rope for Heart at Washington Elementary. Students were able to raise \$2,651.00.

Thank You Volunteers

The month of April is the time to say thank you to all volunteers. Our volunteers are ordinary people doing extraordinary things to improve our schools. Thank you to all of our volunteers for their time and dedication which makes a real difference in the lives of our students!

Class Reunions

If your Ross graduating class will be having a reunion this summer, and you are interested in a tour of any school facilities, please contact the Superintendent's Office at (419) 334-5432.

Community Meeting Held on March 31, 2016

Several weeks ago, the District held an important community meeting to discuss what to do about its aging school buildings. The District shared feedback from 70 coffee discussions and the most frequently asked questions from those discussions were addressed, including new building construction and renovation costs. Additionally, a proposed master facilities plan was presented that night for feedback from the meeting participants. The proposed master facilities plan and an opinion questionnaire will be mailed to all households at the end of April.

A special thank you to the following:

- Facility Coffee Discussion Hosts
- Facility Coffee Discussion Attendees
- Community Meeting Participants
- FCS Staff

**Missed the March 31st
Community Meeting?**

**You can view the presentation
on the FCS website at
www.fremontschools.net**

FCS Supports Local Businesses

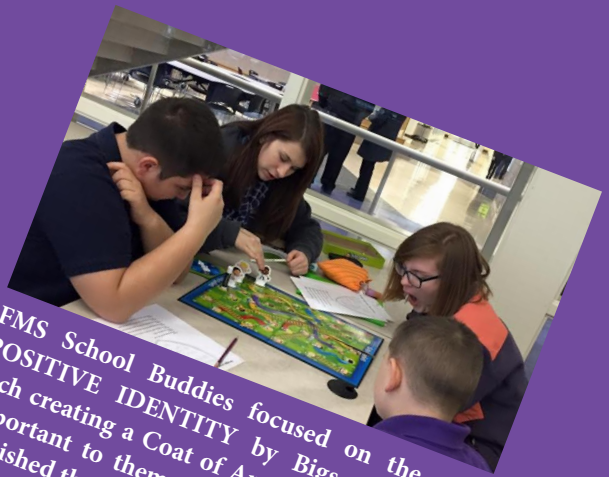
The District hired the following local businesses for products/services during February and March 2016.

- ACE Hardware, Action Printing, Adkins Sanitation, Advanced Auto Parts, Al Baumann Chevrolet, American Red Cross, Automatic Fire Protection Systems, Inc., Beck Suppliers, Bella Cosa, Benchmark Prints, Bobby's Truck and Bus Repair, Burn's Iron & Metal, Burmeister Bay Trophy, C.A. Kustoms, C&W Auto Supply, City of Fremont, Clark Associates, Inc., Contractors Equipment Rental, Croghan Colonial Bank, Crown Battery, Chud's Grille, DClark Online, Inc., Damschroder Roofing, Inc., Depot Pizza, Dollar Tree, Downtown Fremont, East of Chicago, Economy Plumbers, Engler Printing, Famous Supply Co., Fastenal Company, Flower Real Estate Holdings, Fortball Pizza Palace, Foster Auto Body, Inc., Fremont Athletic Supply, Fremont Auto Parts, Fremont Candy & Cigar Co., Fremont Cycle & Fitness, Fremont Community Theatre, Fremont Floor Covering, Fremont Printing, Fremont Recreation Department, Hasselbach Meats, Healthlink, JMK Custom Creations, Jimmy G's BBQ, Jimmy John's, Kroger Co., Ken Kiser Sound, Kuns Northcoast Security, Lions Club International, Lowe's, Madison Motors, Marco's Pizza, Metrotex, O.E. Meyer & Sons, Nickel Paint & Supply, Otto & Urban Flower Shop, Papa Murphy's, The Party Starts Here, ProMedica Memorial Hospital, Plaza Lanes, PostNet, Prairie Flowers, Rotary Club of Fremont, Root's Poultry, Sabroske Electric, Sandusky County, Sheets Supply, Streaker Tractor Sales, Swim Rite Pools, Terra State Community College, Tireman, Trico Glass, Tritch Door, U New Tent Rental, Unique Fabrication, United Way of Sandusky County, Valley Electric, Vanguard-Sentinel, WSOS, Walters' Boiler Works, Warner Mechanical, Weickert Insurance, Woleslagel Moving and US Bank.

Fremont City Schools Gives Back



Morgan Hawk visits with her grandfriends for Teen Leadership Class.



FMS School Buddies focused on the asset POSITIVE IDENTITY by Bigs and Littles each creating a Coat of Arms to share what is important to them and their life goals. They finished the session off by playing games!



Stamm Elementary students donate coins for Pennies by the Pound for the United Way.



Teen Leadership Class spends time with middle school buddies.



The Shamrock Sale at Stamm was a success.



Teen Leadership Class collects clothes for Goodwill.

Through Community Events



Stamm Elementary students wear awesome hats for Hats off for Cancer.



Jump Rope for Heart at Washington Elementary. Students raised \$2,651.00.



Stamm vs Lutz Food Drive.



Kirstyn Bennett visits with her grandfriend as part of her Teen Leadership Class.



Students and staff members showed their heart awareness by participating in a red out on Friday, February 19th.



Stamm Elementary students participate in Think Pink O-H-I-O.



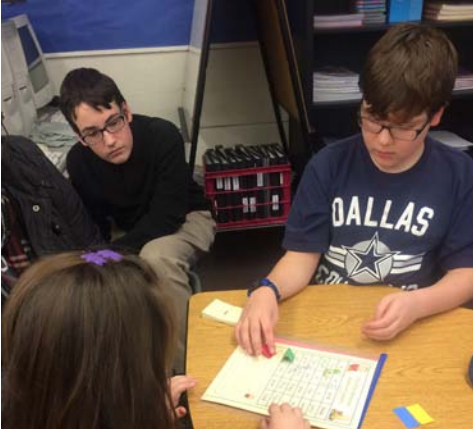
LINK students partnered with Department of Job & Family Services Children's Services Division by helping put up pinwheels after school.

Thank You From FCS

Thank you to the following community members, businesses and organizations for donating to Fremont City Schools from February through March 2016:

Donor	Donation	Recipient
Applebee's	60 Certificates for a Free Kid's Meal	Washington Elementary School
Bobby's Truck & Bus Repair	Cash	Fremont City Schools
Brenda Fisher	Cash	Fremont Ross High School Library and the Speech & Debate Team
Buffalo Wild Wings	Cash	Fremont Ross High School Softball
Carol Dixon	Antique Clock	Fremont City Schools
Cindy Swartz & Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2947	Hats, Gloves & Scarves	Stamm Elementary School
Crown Battery Mfg. Co.	Cash	Fremont City Schools ACE Mentoring Program
Curves	School Supplies	Atkinson, Croghan, Hayes, Lutz, Otis & Stamm Elementary Schools
Ethan Mueller	FFA Jacket	Fremont Ross High School FFA Program
Fremont Kiwanis Club	Hot Chocolate Packets for Safety Patrol Members	FCS Elementary Schools
Geri Long	Electric Dryer	Hayes Elementary School
Gonya-Hull Game Feed/Chris Hull Awards Foundation	Cash to Purchase Awards	Fremont Ross Athletic Department
Hayes PTO & OSS Solid Waste District	Cash for Playground Equipment	Hayes Elementary School
Jen Bair	1 Dozen Total Control Balls	Fremont Ross High School Softball
Jessica Tille	Conn Trombone with Case	Fremont Ross High School Band Department
Judy Gangwer	Binders, Notebooks, and Paper	Stamm Elementary School
Justin & Lauren Cummings	Cash	Fremont Ross Athletic Department
Kathy Sanders	Miscellaneous Prize Items	Fremont City Schools Title I Program
Liberty Tax Service	Pencils	Atkinson, Croghan, Hayes, Lutz & Otis Elementary Schools, Fremont Middle School & Ross High School
Lutz PTO	Cash to Purchase Eagle TV Accessories/Supplies	Lutz Elementary School
Minnie Weber	Scarves & Gloves	Stamm Elementary School
Personal D'Signs	Four Room Dividers	Fremont City Schools ACE Mentoring Program
Roy and Ann Roth	Hats and Gloves	Atkinson Elementary School
St. John's Lutheran Church	Scarves, Hats & Gloves	Fremont City Schools
Teen Leadership Corps	Cash	Fremont Ross High School Leadership Class
Teresa Nesbitt	Books	Otis Elementary School Library
The Cookie Lady	Cookies	Fremont Middle School
Timothy & Karen Holman	Campus Wear Shirts	Washington Elementary School
Trinity United Methodist Church/Barb Bristley	Pants, Belts & Notepads	Otis Elementary School
Washington Retired Breakfast Bunch	2 Benches with Cushions & 2 Name Plates	Washington Elementary School
Wendy's	200 Certificates of Achievement (Free Kid's Meal)	Croghan Elementary School

Reading at Atkinson



The kindergarten students at Atkinson Elementary have been working hard to build their reading readiness skills as they approach first grade. They are learning to apply their letter/sound knowledge to word building, blending and decoding as they read and write three letter, short vowel words in word families such as -at (cat, rat, sat...), -et (bet, let, set...) and -in (pin, tin, fin...), to name a few. They are making great growth this year! Mrs. Fleming, our Title I reading teacher, has worked hard to present fun learning opportunities for kindergarten students and their families. Families have been invited each quarter to attend gatherings to learn more about the development of their growing "reader". Through Mrs. Fleming's presentations, they are also introduced to fun activities that can be used at home to reinforce what their kindergartner is learning

at school. Families are each given a learning activity packet to take home with them to use with their kindergartner when the session is complete.

Reading growth has been a team effort for the kindergarten students at Atkinson! Thanks to our families for their continued support!



Creative Cooking at Otis!

Students at Otis Elementary in Mr. Doehr's multiple disabilities resource classroom are making strides towards developing skills needed for daily living. Recently, students have been working on reading and following simple recipes in picture-written form. Their lessons focus on gathering materials and ingredients, matching picture cues to each step of a recipe, and completing all steps of a recipe on their own. Pictured are students preparing peanut butter



& jelly sandwiches independently as part of their practice for preparing their own meal for lunch or a snack. In the coming weeks students will continue working on simple meal recipes and practicing safe use of common kitchen utensils.

Teen Leadership at Ross

The Teen Leadership Class at Ross High School helps to build future leaders. During a semester each student is required to do 20 hours of community service, a semester project, mentor a sixth grader, and visit grandfriends. Semester projects are different for each student. They range from Veterans Day program, organized by Emily Muffler, to the pop tab drive for The Ronald McDonald House, a project headed by Nick Arnold. Students participate in class projects as well. Leadership is currently participating in the TLC statewide Goodwill Drive.

Mrs. Gallagher, the TLC teacher, explained, "The Leadership Class is different from a traditional class because we are not only curriculum-based, but we also mix in service to the community, Ross, and FMS. I am so blessed to see how students who take the program grow and mature. Many students witness how a community service campaign not only enriches the community, but it also builds their character."

Second semester looks bright for TLC, with many projects starting soon, a used shoe drive, an ALS fundraiser baseball game, collecting prom dresses for those who might not be able to buy one.

Article by Autumn Ollom, Editor-in-Chief of The Chatter

And the Winners are...

During the month of February, over 40 students at Fremont Middle School participated in a math competition. The competition, T.A.P.S. (Team Approach to Problem Solving), involved students working collaboratively to solve 5 rounds of math problems. Each round contained 5 questions that the students had to solve in 20 minutes within their group of 4. The competition was conducted by EOCTM (Eastern Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics) and there were over 1,000 students that participated from grades 4-8. Fremont Middle School is proud to announce that one of their 6th grade teams placed FIRST in the competition, beating out 268 other students from 12 different school districts, for the top prize. Brock Boskovich, Marcus Kupka, Morgan Shetzer, and Allison Taylor are the members of the winning team that showed extraordinary excellence in their math problem solving skills. Please be sure to congratulate Brock, Marcus, Allison, and Morgan for their perseverance and mathematical abilities.



Staff Spotlight



Andrea Moya - Bilingual Paraprofessional - Atkinson/Lutz

Why did you choose Fremont City Schools?

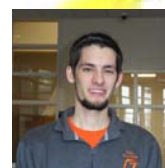
As the saying goes, "Once a Giant, Always a Giant". I am a proud graduate of Fremont Ross high and Alumni of Atkinson Elementary. Coming to Fremont City Schools meant giving back to the community that laid the foundation for my education. Many educators in this district influenced me in a positive way, and I wanted the opportunity to do the same for future "Little Giants". Though the success of youth everywhere is vital, there is a dear place in my heart to see the success of our youth in Fremont.

How does your current position help students in the District?

I am able to provide support for students who have difficulties due to language barriers. It allows for the students to be provided with the necessary resources, through appropriate collaboration and communication with teachers and staff, in order to ensure success in their educational growth, as well as social and emotional growth. My position also allows me to connect with many diverse students in various classroom settings, building a rapport and trust that helps create a positive learning environment.

What are some traits/skills you possess that help you with your position?

Having a higher learning background of Spanish in Education has definitely helped, but I feel that being raised by parents with a migrant background has had a greater influence in the traits and skills I carry. It taught me to be compassionate and understanding to the needs of students and families of students. I have learned to be flexible, as well as versatile, in adapting to various situations and surroundings. Positivity, communication, and collaboration have also been necessities. Most of all, having a strong foundation in faith has been the key in what ties it all together.



Alex Wilhelm - 8th Grade Math - Fremont Middle School

Why did you choose Fremont City Schools?

As soon as I met the staff at Fremont Middle School, I knew this was a great place to be. The teachers at the middle school work extremely hard to prepare our students for the 21st century and show the passion and dedication that is so important in education. I looked forward to working with, and guiding, students at the 8th grade level. The opportunity to work with these teachers and to help the students of Fremont made my decision to work for Fremont City Schools an easy one.

What is your philosophy in the classroom?

My philosophy in the classroom is to treat each student with respect and to hold every student to high expectations. When students come into my classroom, I expect that they treat one another well and work hard everyday. With eighty minute periods for math, I try to use a variety of activities and strategies to keep students engaged. Through math, we are also learning social skills and teamwork, as students routinely problem solve in groups and have to present their findings to the class.

What new ideas are you implementing this year?

I have started to use "Brain Buster" as extension activities that either reinforce previous learning or challenge students through logic puzzles. Students choose from several available "Brain Busters," providing them the opportunity to work at their individual level. I have also implemented station activities that get the students up and moving around the room as they work in pairs, or groups of three, to complete problems. I have been fortunate to work with veteran teachers on staff who provide me with new ideas and ways to improve my teaching as I continue through my first year.

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.

District Goals:

*Increase Student Achievement

*Close Socio-Economic, Ethnic and Disability Gaps in Student Achievement

*Build Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Fremont City Schools does not discriminate nor tolerate harassment in its employment opportunities, educational programs or activities for any reason including on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, military status, ancestry, sexual orientation, transgender identity, age or genetic information.