

# Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Sept.  
2011

## Fremont Continues to Show Improvements on Annual State Report Card

Dear Fremont Community,

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Fremont City Schools (FCS) received an "Effective" rating on the State Report Card and continues to improve its performance in virtually every area of the state evaluation. Listed below are highlights from Fremont's report card.

Rating:	Effective
Performance Indicators:	Met 15 out of 26
Performance Index:	94.5
Value-Added:	√ Met Expected Growth
Adequate Yearly Progress:	Not Met

(Did not meet AYP in IEP Reading Proficiency Rate. Met AYP in IEP Math and all other FCS subgroups in Reading, Math, Participation, Graduation and Attendance.)

The district's 2010-11 report card is available at [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net) or copies are available at the district office, 1220 Cedar Street.

All of the individual school buildings showed areas of improvement on their building report cards. Congratulations to Washington Elementary School for earning an "Excellent" rating and congratulations to the following schools for earning an "Effective" rating: Ross High School, Fremont Middle School, Atkinson, Croghan, Hayes, Lutz, Otis and Stamm.

The 2010-2011 report card results validate the practices that we have undertaken in the design and delivery of classroom instruction. As well, the results are testimony to the commitment that the Board, parents, administrators, teachers, support staff, students and community have to excellence in education.

Sincerely,  
*Traci McCaudy*  
Superintendent

### Strong Academics

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## The University of Toledo Scholarly Savings Program



Pictured here is one group of last year's grade 8 UT Scholarly Savings Plan recipients. Congratulations to last year's 108 eighth graders and 141 ninth graders who earned \$2,000 for tuition at The University of Toledo after high school graduation. This school year ALL students in grades 8 through 10 will have the opportunity to earn \$2,000 via UT's Scholarly Savings Program. Parents and students will receive additional information about this program in September. At right: Kelsey Ivy, one of the 2010-2011 Grade 9 scholarship recipients.



**Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community**

## Atkinson: The journey begins



Most teachers kick off the school year by introducing themselves and talking about all the things students will be doing that year. They often go over rules and expectations of the class. The students at Fremont returned to school August 30<sup>th</sup>. Many students and teachers had been excitedly anticipating the first day of school. Mrs. Lowery 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at Atkinson has begun their academic journey by diving into their Ohio History social studies books. They are working on a textbook scavenger hunt to familiarize them with the content of the textbook and some of the topics

that they will be learning about. Mrs. Lowery is pictured here with Jonathon Castro. She is helping him to locate important information that was to be found during the textbook activity. The students at Atkinson are ready and eager to absorb all the knowledge they can in all content areas.

## Nutrition and Wellness

Over the summer, a very exciting new feature has been added to the Child Nutrition Department link on the Fremont City Schools' web site. It is a nutritional calendar that calculates the nutritional values of the foods eaten in the school cafeterias. Nutritional values included are: calories, total fat, saturated fat, trans fat, cholesterol, sodium, carbohydrates, dietary fiber, protein, sugar, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, calcium and iron.

The instructions for exploring this valuable tool are:

- Go to [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net)
- Go to the Child Nutrition link located on the left menu
- On the Child Nutrition page, click on the Nutritional Values on the right side menu list
- Once in the calculator, choose from a menu (Breakfast, Elementary Schools, Middle School, or High School)
- Click on the appropriate food items depending on the daily menu
- Click on View Nutritional Values to view the chart that indicates the calories, Vitamins, sodium, etc. for the meal(s) that were eaten in the school cafeteria
- To view the nutritional values of another meal on the menu, simply click on reset and start over

This tool will allow anyone to view multiple elements of nutrition of consumed foods in the cafeterias of Fremont City Schools. This tool is available for the school nurses to help students either count carbs or plan their school meal items around foods eaten outside of school hours. Please utilize this tool along with the various school menus to help plan the eating patterns of your child. If there are any special dietary needs, please contact the school cafeteria manager or our Child Nutrition Supervisor, Michaeleen Rogers at 419-334-5440.

## Athletic Update

### Question:

Why did FCS move from Division I to Division II in football?

### Answer:

Every two years the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) re-certifies its enrollment counts in order to distribute schools into divisions for each sport for girls and boys. Last year's student enrollment was used in grades 9, 10 & 11 in order to determine division categories for the 2011-2012 school year. The OHSAA also added a new division for football. In the past, football had five divisions and this year football will have six divisions. Because this sixth division was added Ross High School dropped from Division I to Division II. All other sports at Ross High School will remain at the Division I category.

## FCS Opening Staff Meeting

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, FCS staff opened the 2011-2012 school year at Grace Community Church. At this meeting, seniors Meagan Buchele, Malcolm Leake and Alan (A.J.) Mehlow welcomed the staff and Dr. McCauley shared highlights from last school year and discussed the goals for the upcoming academic year. Additionally, consultants from The Leadership and Learning Center shared information about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Bret Gensburg shared SMARTboard technology utilization for the classroom.

A special thanks to Grace Community Church for allowing us to use their beautiful facility for the opening meeting. Thanks to Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc., Lake Erie Electric, Telamon Construction, Inc., Touchstone CPM, U\*New Tent Rental and Warner Mechanical Corporation for sponsoring our cook-out and thanks to the following businesses for donating items for our annual raffle: A Variety of Shades, Al Baumann's, Bella Cosa, Chud's Grille, Crown Battery, DaVinci's, Fremont Athletic Supply, Fricker's, Gift Baskets & Bouquets, Lee's Famous Recipe, Looking Good, Michael Andrew Salon, Otto & Urban, Personal D'Signs, Ross Athletic Boosters, Steine's, The 818 Club, The Party Starts Here, and Whitey's Diner.



Upper Left: Senior AJ Mehlow welcomes the staff. On the right: Bret Gensburg shares a lesson on the SMARTboard.

## Washington is Loving Learning



There is no foolin' around in Ms. Pendry's first grade class, as you can see in the picture. With the large number of Language Arts content standards an educator must address, time is

precious. What you see these Washington first graders doing is much more than just reading and writing. Yes, both are extremely important to a first grader, but for their teacher, knowing how well each child can read is critical. This type of lesson is called an Inventory Lesson. By using elements of the StoryTown curriculum, first graders read together and independently. This practice provides valuable information that will be gathered to establish an appropriate starting point at each child's reading skill level. The fancy term is "Acquiring Baseline Data". When asked about this activity Ms. Pendry stated, "The main goal of the inventory lesson is to give the children a quick "refresher" on some basic skills they learned in kindergarten. More importantly for the first grade teacher it allows the teacher to get a snap-shot of areas that may need to be covered a bit more in depth. It allows the children the opportunity to get back in the swing of school, and the teachers the opportunity to gauge where each child is academically performing." Washington first graders are ready to go and Ms. Pendry knows where they should be starting. It has been a great start and we are looking to move on down the line, learning all the whole way, right into second grade. Although that may seem far away, it will be here sooner than you think.

**View video clips of our Fremont City Schools students...**

## Croghan has Character



Croghan Elementary School counselor and teachers will be collaborating during the 2011-2012 school year to better understand the theories of character education and to strengthen teaching methods for character-building. Data from schools which have incorporated effective character education programs has shown improvements in the overall learning environment and more time for instruction

and practice. Classroom, small group, and individual character-building activities have equipped students with various tools which carry over into extracurricular activities and sports programs. Please join Croghan School as they improve their abilities to “teach, enforce, advocate, and model (T.E.A.M.)” good character. In the picture above: Sierra Almanza displays wonderful character by tying the shoes of Autumn Anderson.

## FMS Student Gives Back

Sarai Perez, an 8th grade student at Fremont Middle School, decided to give back to her community, by volunteering at FMS over the summer. From organizing the vast amount of trophies that the school has acquired over the years, to becoming a tour guide and translator for incoming students, Sarai did it all. “She seeks out individuals to help without being asked and without the expectation of recognition, which is a quality of a true leader,” said Mr. Spurlock, Fremont Middle School Assistant Principal. Sarai hopes to go to Julliard and become a professional pianist; but, until then, we should keep an eye on this up and coming leader.



## Recent Graduate Dylan Showman Earns Eagle Scout

FCS congratulates Dylan Showman on earning his Eagle Scout.

Photo Courtesy: Dumminger Photo

## Otis Students are “Bucket Fillers”

One of the continuing goals this year at Otis Elementary is to encourage respect and kindness throughout our school. This year’s theme is based on the idea of being a “bucket filler.” The concept is based on the book Have You Filled A Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud, and is founded in the notion that we all come to school every day with an invisible bucket. Our words and actions toward each other can either fill someone’s bucket or drain it. We will emphasize the importance of using uplifting, encouraging words when we talk to others in an effort to “fill” buckets. Each classroom will have a system in place where students can fill out a bucket filler slip with kind words and give it to another student. Staff members will also be able to submit bucket filler slips to recognize the efforts of their colleagues, which will be included in the weekly staff memo. We are looking forward to a great year and all of the positive impacts that the bucket filler theme will have on our school climate this year! Pictured above are Claire Fitzpatrick and Tyrese Taylor, two of our first graders in Mrs. Costilla’s classroom.



## Lutz: A Caring Community

On August 25, 2011, all faculty members at Lutz Elementary School met to discuss the upcoming year and academic goals. Last year many parents and educators were concerned with the ongoing issue of bullying across the United States. In an effort to further eliminate these problems, Mrs. Stephanie Rusher was invited to come and speak to the staff about building caring communities in the classroom. Mrs. Rusher provided a demonstration, and shared several student responses based on the Cube of Love program in their classrooms. Upon completion of the presentation, every teacher at Lutz signed up to receive the program information to utilize in their classroom. Mrs. Rusher also provided documentation demonstrating how these caring communities improved student outcomes academically in the classroom. Everyone at Lutz is excited about implementing these strategies to meet our academic goals.



## Stopping Cyberbullying

All Fremont City Schools are committed to keeping students safe. To that end, we have developed policies and procedures designed to address the issue of bullying in any form. You can find all school policies and procedures as well as parent training sessions available on our website at [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net). This month, our focus is on Cyber-bullying, which is bullying or harassment that is done with a computer or other electronic device. According to the Bully Prevention Resource Guide available at [www.bullyprevention.org](http://www.bullyprevention.org)

Cyber-bullying includes such things as:

- Intentionally and repeatedly posting negative comments that cause harm or discomfort to the individual
- Creating a website meant to humiliate a victim
- Forwarding private emails without permission
- Taking an embarrassing photo with a camera phone and posting it online
- Setting up online polls with the intent to gain negative information about someone

Adults play a key role in protecting their children from cyber-bullying or preventing their child from becoming a cyber-bully. For a list of concrete suggestions for making your child’s internet usage a safe experience for everyone, please visit [www.bullyprevention.org](http://www.bullyprevention.org).

## Hayes Students Receive Supplies from United Way

Many students received a bag full of school supplies donated by United Way. Each bag contained crayons, colored pencils, notebooks, Kleenex, folders, pencils, pens and other items. Students were thrilled to receive these new items to start the school year. On behalf of Hayes Elementary students, much thanks and gratitude is extended to United Way for this generous donation.

In the picture at the left, Alyssa and Kayla Smith, hold up their bag of supplies and are very excited about their "gifts". Alyssa stated that she really liked the bag of supplies, with her favorite supplies being the colored pencils and markers. Kayla stated that the supplies were great and her favorite supply was the pen!

These new school supplies made for a lot of excitement for the children's first day of school!



Hispanic Heritage Month  
September 15-October 15 2011

## FCS District Office Move

Last year Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technology Centers informed FCS that they planned to renovate the current FCS district office space located at 1220 Cedar Street into classroom space. FCS has been leasing their district office space from Vanguard-Sentinel since January 1996. Upon hearing the news, the district's Business Advisory Council (BAC) started planning for a new district office. The BAC considered both purchase and lease options as they researched all of the available space in Fremont. After several months of work, the BAC recommended that the district lease the 500 West State Street building from the Sandusky County Commissioners. This site offers the following advantages:

1. The district will occupy a vacant building in the city of Fremont.
2. The site is centrally located making it convenient for new families and visitors.
3. There is adequate parking for visitors.
4. The site has adequate space. The square footage is almost the same size as the current district office.
5. The building is in good shape and the monthly rent is \$2,200 compared to the district's current monthly rent of \$6,144.

It should be noted that work needs to be completed on the inside of the building prior to the move. The district has budgeted permanent improvement monies for this work. Permanent improvement monies by definition can only be used for "property, asset, or improvement with an estimated life or usefulness of five years or more, including land and interests therein, and reconstructions, enlargements, and extensions thereof having an estimated life or usefulness of five years or more." The district plans to design a functional and modest district office. We have budgeted a small amount of money for this type of construction project, and we intend to stay within this budget. The district plans to move into the district office the first week of April while the students and staff are on spring break.

Additional information regarding this project will be shared throughout the year. Please contact Dr. Traci McCaudy if you have any questions/concerns about this project.

## Stamm - A Great Place to Learn



Stamm School is filled with lots of excitement as the new school year gets underway. To keep Stamm School being a great place to learn, the community of Stamm will always work together to increase student achievement. We will also focus on working collectively to keep our school climate positive. To accomplish this goal we will utilize several strategies to recognize all the good that is taking place in our school.

Students have the opportunity to earn many positive rewards. A program in place throughout the school is called Stamm Silver. Teachers have special coins they distribute to students "caught being good" or making good choices. Those students can bring down their Stamm Silver to the office to "purchase" a treat from Mrs. Oravets, the principal. Student can earn Stamm Silver for being good citizens, doing good deeds, and helping keep our school community safe.

Another strategy is called "Pizza with the Principal." As staff members recognize the good behaviors of students, they give the student a slip of paper to fill out their name and class. This slip goes into a pizza box. At the end of every month, one slip is randomly picked out of each box. Those students are invited to have lunch with Mrs. Oravets the next school day.

Because Stamm School is filled with awesome students doing awesome things, Stamm Silver was being distributed the first day of school, which is evidence that this is going to be an awesome school year.

## Busing Updates

### High School Busing

- Pending Board of Education approval on September 19<sup>th</sup>, FCS will be reinstating busing for eligible students in grades 9-12 beginning January 19, 2012. High school students will be bused to Ross High School who live two (2) or more miles away from the school. Information regarding high school busing will be shared with parents and students beginning in October.

### FMS Busing (Effective January 19, 2012 coinciding with the move to the new FMS)

- \*Students in grades 6-8 who received transportation prior to the move will continue to be bused to the new middle school regardless of the two (2) mile guideline.
- Students in grades 6-8 who did not receive transportation services prior to the move who now live two (2) or more miles from the new middle school will receive transportation services beginning January 19, 2012.

*\*Please note that this will only pertain to the 2011-2012 school year. The two (2) mile guideline will be reinstated for the school year 2012-2013 regardless if transportation was provided in the prior school 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, age or genetic information.**