

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

August
2012

Welcome Back from Dr. McCaudy

Dear Fremont Community,

Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer! This year the district will continue its focus on improving student achievement, providing a safe and positive learning environment for our students, and strengthening our relationship with the Fremont community. In a continued effort to collaborate with our community, I am encouraging parents and community members to complete our Community Perception Survey by visiting www.fremontschools.net no later than September 15th. Survey results will be reviewed and strategies will be developed in order to address any areas in need of improvement. We plan to share the survey results and improvement strategies in a future newsletter. Lastly, I have included information that you may find helpful for the upcoming school year. Thank you and I look forward to working with you and your children this school year.

Sincerely,

Traci McCaudy

Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent



Welcome New Leaders

We would like to welcome seven new administrators to Fremont City Schools for the 2012-2013 school year. All seven administrators are filling open positions due to either retirement or resignations.

Tom Anway – Director of Facilities and Operations
Leigh Carroll – Assistant Principal at FMS
Randy Macko – Elementary Principal at Lutz
Chris Ward – Elementary Principal at Atkinson

Chad Berndt – Director of Athletics
Sue King – Elementary Principal at Hayes
Bridget Smith - Elementary Principal at Washington

Strong Academics

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Strong Character

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2012-2013 School Year Information

First Day of School Information:

August 23rd	Vanguard Career Center & The Technology Center
August 28 th	Grades 1-12
August 30 th	Kindergarten (first full day)*
September 4 th	Pre-School (first full day)*

*Parents will receive more information via postal mail.

School Day Times:

Elementary Schools	9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Fremont Middle School	7:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Ross High School	7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Vanguard	8:30 a.m. – 2:42 p.m.

**For more information, check out page 2 or go to
www.fremontschools.net**

Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community

2012-2013 School Year Information continued

School Supply Lists:

Elementary and FMS school supply lists for the 2012-2013 school year are available on the district web site, at the district office and in the school buildings.

Student Dress Code:

There are no changes to the Student Dress Code Policy for the 2012-2013 school year. The policy is available on the district web site, at the district office and in the school buildings.

Transportation:

Bus routes will be submitted to The News-Messenger during the first ten days of August and will be published within two weeks of submission date. Please contact the Transportation Office at 419-332-7351 or visit the district's web site for bus route information.

Food Service:

Full priced lunches for the 2012-2013 school year:

Elementary	\$2.00
Fremont Middle School	\$2.25
Ross High School	\$2.50

Parents can view student meal accounts and pre-pay on-line at www.sendmoneytoschool.com. Parents can apply on-line now for free/reduced lunches at www.lunchapp.com for the 2012-2013 school year.

Immunizations:

The 2012-2013 immunization information can be found on our web site by selecting the "Parent Information" tab on the left side of the home page and then selecting either of the "2012/2013 Immunization" tabs.

Student Identification Badges:

Students in grades 6-12 must show their student identification badges in order to attend all extra-curricular activities. Students will receive their ID badges during their summer building orientations. Middle and high school students new to FCS may get their ID photos taken during registration at the district office.

Open House/Orientation/Student Schedules:

Elementary Schools Open House	August 27 th	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Fremont Middle School Orientations		
Grades 7 & 8	August 14 th	4:00 p.m. / 5:30 p.m. / 7:00 p.m.
Grade 6	August 15 th	4:00 p.m. / 5:30 p.m. / 7:00 p.m.
Ross High School Grade 9/New Student Orientation		
August 21st		9:00 a.m. / 5:30 p.m.
Ross High School Schedule Pick-up		
Grades 11 & 12	August 17 th	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Grade 10	August 20 th	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

****Ross High School counselors are available daily beginning on August 13th.****

Ross High School Open House	August 28 th	5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
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Football Season

The start of the 2012 football season is less than a week away. The excitement and anticipation of another competitively laden season will undoubtedly draw many spectators from the school community and beyond. So as we begin our final preparations for the start of the football season we wanted to communicate the rules and expectations for students who will be attending varsity football games at Don Paul Stadium. The following rules have been put in place to help maximize efficiency as well as ensure the safety of all those in attendance. Adherence to these rules will be strictly enforced.

1. Backpacks will no longer be allowed in the stadium. Students who choose to bring a backpack will need to leave it at the gate. The school will not be responsible for items that are lost or stolen.
 2. Students in grades K-5 must remain with their parents at all times. Children who are left unattended will be sent back to their seats.
 3. In order for students in grades 6-12 to sit in the designated student section of the stadium, they must have a current Fremont student identification card.
 4. Students are to remain in their seats throughout the contest – with the exception of two minutes before half and the end of the contest.
 5. Students will be encouraged to show their school spirit; however, they are not to criticize or defame the opposing team or the officials.
 6. Students must use north end concession stand stairway, nearest the elevator to enter and exit the student section.
 7. If you leave the stadium early, you must pay to re-enter.
 8. No signs allowed of any kind.
- *****The first home football game is against Sandusky on August 24th.*****

Child Find: Early Intervention

Every child in this country is entitled to a free, appropriate, public education. The law applies to handicapped children as well, regardless of the handicap, or the severity of the handicap. Please call us if you suspect your child may have a handicap. We can help – but we must first find the child.

Fremont City Schools provides comprehensive services to students with disabilities. Additionally, we work collaboratively with the Help Me Grow program which assists families with early identification and services for children under the age of three. We also have a collaborative agreement with the Sandusky County DD Early Childhood and School-Age programs provided through the School of Hope. Together, we work to find the right services for each child. For more information please call the Director of Student Services at 419-334-5464.

Curriculum Corner

Fremont City School students and staff will return to our classrooms with some new instructional materials and curriculum. New instructional materials at Ross High School will include textbooks in Business Law, Accounting, Health, Grade 9 History, AP Government, and Grades 9-12 English Language Arts. We are excited to offer a new class within our English department which will assist students in prepping for the ACT. Curriculum and pacing have been adjusted to align to new national and state standards in English and Social Studies.

Staff returning to FMS will greet students with new Health materials, new texts in English Language Arts and Social Studies. We have new curriculum for Health and a curriculum for English and Social Studies that has been adjusted to align to new national and state standards. FMS will also benefit from some additional technology tools to enhance teaching and learning.

Elementary students will return to an addition to their science classes. A supplemental material that will enhance the instruction of the science curriculum has been added to all elementary classrooms. Every science teacher will have access to both an electronic version and a paper copy of Scholastic News. This non-fiction resource will assist our teachers in meeting the state standards in an engaging manner.

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

District Facilities Update



Croghan Street FMS Demolition Project

(Photos from left to right: June 18, 2012; July 12, 2012 and July 27, 2012)

This past spring Abdo Wrecking, LLC was hired by the Fremont City Schools Board of Education to complete the demolition phase of the project. The demolition contractor has been placing bricks from the building outside the fence near the front entrance for pick up by community members as keepsakes. The following items will be, or have been, carefully removed from the Croghan Street FMS and will be incorporated into the new FMS or other FCS buildings: 1909 and 1923 cornerstones (original and building addition cornerstones); 1891 cornerstone (incorporated into the current structure from a previous school building on the site); Front pillars; "Fremont Junior High School" signage; "Fremont High School" signage; "Anno Domini MCMIX" dedication stone; Various concrete/sandstone exterior decorative pieces; Door overhang from the exterior southeast entrance; Auditorium hanging and ceiling mounted light fixtures; "Door to nowhere" from the Auditorium Gym A; Miscellaneous free-standing wood cabinets; Dedication plaques including the Battle of Fort Stephenson commemoration plaque

After demolition has been completed the site will be graded, seeded and sidewalks will be replaced. Additionally, the district will have a memorial honoring the former school and the buried British soldiers placed on the site.

New Fremont Middle School

This past summer the prime contractors finalized their "punch lists" and the landscaper will reseed grass and replant dead plants/trees this fall.

Last spring we had several roof/window leaks but our roofing contractor was very prompt with repairing the problem areas and the district will continue to monitor.

In addition to the roof/window leaks, we are experiencing problems with our floor tiles "curling" in the student union and hallway areas. Currently, moisture tests are being conducted and the district has been reassured by our construction manager that the problems will be resolved by the flooring contractors.

If you have any questions regarding the new middle school, please contact Dr. Traci McCaudy at 419-334-5432.

Classroom Units

As you are aware, the district moved sixth grade classrooms from the elementary buildings to the new Fremont Middle School this past January.

The district has been attempting to eliminate portable units but was unable because these units were needed for classrooms. Now that the sixth grade classrooms are no longer housed in the elementary buildings, several classrooms housed in portable units are able to be relocated in school buildings.

In 2009 a total of five portable units were eliminated from the district and this summer an additional eight portable units were removed. Currently, there are fifteen remaining portable units throughout the district and all elementary classroom space is being utilized. The district will continue to evaluate student enrollment and classroom utilization with the goal to eliminate additional portable units in the future.



District Office

The district office moved to its new location in April 2012. With the help of the district's Business Advisory Council the district explored both purchase and lease options. After several months of work, the BAC recommended that the district lease the 500 West State Street building from the Sandusky County Commissioners. The new lease saves the district approximately \$43,000 per year as the new lease is significantly less than what the district was paying Vanguard-Sentinel for leasing offices at 1220 Cedar Street.

The new site was in need of renovations so last September Fanning-Howey architects were hired to design a functional and modest district office. The total cost of the renovation project, including electrical and HVAC upgrades, was estimated at \$683,000 and Permanent Improvement funds were budgeted for this project. The renovations have been completed and due to bid savings, the project is \$126,945 under budget, making the final renovation costs approximately \$556,154.

District Permanent Improvements

The summer of 2012 was very busy at Fremont Ross High School. A major electrical upgrade was completed throughout the old part of the building. Dedicated circuits were added to each classroom and all panels were upgraded. The classroom circuits were added to support "Computers on Wheels" carts. These carts will hold a classroom set of laptop computers for instructional use. The dedicated circuits are necessary for charging the batteries on the carts on a nightly basis. Wireless equipment was also installed throughout the building. This equipment will allow for students to connect to the internet anywhere in the building, just as students can in the middle school, for optimal instructional delivery. In addition, the Ross High School parking lot (shown at left) was resurfaced and an air handler was repaired in the gymnasium.

Other work throughout the district included the following: portable classrooms were eliminated at Atkinson, Croghan, Otis and Ross High School; new restroom dividers were installed at Otis and new carpet was installed in two classrooms; landscaping was completed at Croghan, Hayes, Stamm and the tennis court areas; mason work was completed on the overhang areas of Atkinson Elementary; tuck-pointing was completed at Croghan and the parking lot was sealed and re-stripped.

Visit www.fremontschools.net and Click on Communications

FCS Financial Update from Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent

This summer has been very busy closing the 2011-2012 school year and preparing for the 2012-2013 academic year. Part of this preparation includes closing the fiscal year and budgeting for the upcoming school year. Although the district received an increase in basic aid our tangible personal property loss reimbursement has been decreased and the state fiscal stabilization fund eliminated. Simply put, the district is estimating to lose approximately \$2.6 million over a two-year period (2011-2013) with reductions in state funding.

In order to maintain a balanced budget, the district has been very conservative with its expenditures over the last six years while continuing to improve the educational services to our Fremont students. The entire FCS staff and Business Advisory Council have been working collaboratively over the past several years analyzing expenditures and finding ways to reduce costs. To date, FCS has:

- Reduced personnel: 47 total staff have been reduced since 2006.
- Negotiated an employee contract that included no raises to annual salaries for two years.
- Instituted changes to insurance coverage and created a unique, cost-effective Wellness Plan.
- Increased pay-to-participate fees for athletic programming.
- Joined councils and consortiums in order to reduce utility, materials and supplies costs.
- Pursued educational grants to assist FCS with General Fund costs/expenditures.
- Reduced Workers' Compensation costs/expenditures.
- Restructured budgeting process to prioritize funding needs ("program-based budgeting").
- Renegotiated all "service contracts" with service providers. Reduced an additional 33 staff members from North Central Ohio Educational Service Center.
- Reduced transportation services in order to save money and brought back high school busing with the opening of the new FMS.

At the same time, FCS has kept its focus squarely on excellence in education. Fremont City Schools offers free full day kindergarten; students are benefiting from significant upgrades in curriculum materials, textbooks and supplies; focused intervention programs are available to students in need; and technology initiatives continue to enhance education in classrooms throughout the district.

We appreciate that economic times are difficult for all of us and Fremont City Schools has been, and will continue to be, fiscally responsible with the monies provided to us.

Renewal Income Tax Levy

On November 6, 2012, Fremont City Schools will ask the Fremont community to vote for the Renewal Income Tax Levy. This 1.25% income tax generates approximately \$6.7 million dollars per year for the district and the monies generated from this income tax are used to pay current operating expenses of Fremont City Schools. Passage of the Renewal Income Tax Levy will **NOT increase taxes**. Fremont City Schools Board President, Alex Gorobetz, stated the following about the Renewal Income Tax Levy, "Passage of this levy is crucial to the financial health and stability of the district as it comprises 20% of the district's total budget. The improvements to the district in the areas of curriculum, facilities, budgetary operations, technology and student services during the past six years have been unprecedented in the school district's history. All of these improvements have resulted in markedly better performance of our students. The renewal levy is not a new tax and passage of this levy will enable the district to continue the positive momentum we are now experiencing and allow us to maintain the excellent programs which are designed to benefit all of our students."

Fremont Earns an "A" from the Auditor of State

On April 12, 2012, the Auditor of State reviewed and accepted the district's financial audit completed by Charles E Harris & Associates. The financial audit stated that the district had no control weaknesses, deficiencies, non-compliance issues or reportable findings for Fremont's major local and federal funds and minor funds. The major funds audited this fiscal year included the General Fund, Special Education Title VI-B Fund, ARRA Special Education Title VI-B Fund, Nutrition Cluster Funds and ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization Funds. Fremont City Schools is proud to receive such a positive report and the district will continue to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars by following all state and federal purchasing guidelines.

Alumni Visit FMS and facilities

This summer the Class of 1957, Class of 1977, Class of 1987, and the Class of 1992 toured the new Fremont Middle School and athletic facilities as part of their week-end reunion celebrations. Left to right: Some classmates from 1987 and 1992 pose in front of the Little Giant sign; 1987 alumni John Cahill shows his son Jake the new FMS gymnasium.



Attention Senior Citizens

Senior Giant Activity Pass

All Fremont residents who are sixty-five (65) years of age, or older, are eligible for a complimentary pass to all school activities, including school plays, musical performances and athletic events. If you would like a permanent "Senior Giant" activity pass, please contact Desiree Subara at subsarad@fremont.k12.oh.us or visit www.fremontschools.net (Communications Tab) and click on "Senior Pass" for an application and mailing instructions.

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.