

Spring 2024
Newsletter

Fremont City Schools

Home of the Little Giants

FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT DETWILER

Hello Little Giant Families,

In January I announced that I will be retiring in August. As I reflect on my time here at Fremont City Schools, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as a teacher, coach, principal and superintendent. I am, however, most proud of being a parent of two Little Giants of my own. I have been humbled by the kind compliments and expressions of appreciation that I have received over the last few weeks. Your support and encouragement have meant the world to me, and I will cherish the memories.

As I look ahead to the next chapter of my life, I am filled with both excitement and nostalgia. I have every confidence in the future success of our schools, and I am grateful to have been a part of this remarkable journey. As a former track coach, I can use the analogy...I believe I have run the leg of the race I was supposed to run.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every member of the Fremont City Schools community. Your dedication, passion, and commitment to excellence has made a lasting impact on our students' lives and on me. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of it all.

Once a Little Giant, always a Little Giant.
Jon Detwiler

WHAT'S OTIS UP TO?

OTIS ELEMENTARY

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose! And, if you are an Otis Elementary student, you might just steer yourself right to the Media Center to celebrate Dr. Seuss! With the organization and inspiration from Mrs. Thompson, and the help of several parent and community volunteers, the Otis Media Center was transformed into Seussville. This transformation was not only to celebrate the amazing work of Dr. Seuss, but to celebrate the joy of reading. Students were treated to several stations to read, play games, and even enjoy a special treat. If you were curious if this would all succeed, yes, it did indeed! (98 and $\frac{3}{4}$ percent guaranteed).



FREMONT CITY SCHOOLS

500 W. State St., Suite A, Fremont, Ohio 43420
www.fremontschools.net

Atkinson Elementary: 419-332-5361
Croghan Elementary: 419-332-1511
Lutz Elementary: 419-332-0091

Otis Elementary: 419-332-8964
Fremont Middle School: 419-332-5569
Ross High School: 419-332-8221

Fremont City Schools

ATKINSON UPDATE

ATKINSON ELEMENTARY

Atkinson students have been busy providing community service both around our school building and in the community.

The Make a Difference Club meets once a month with the goal of making an impact around the school building and in the community. They organized the Pennies by the Pound fundraiser, in conjunction with the United Way of Sandusky County, in which students brought in change to donate as part of a class competition. They also marched in the homecoming parade, made Thanksgiving placemats for Meals on Wheels, and made ornaments at Christmas time. Most recently, they made Valentine's cards and bookmarks for the students at Atkinson to spread some cheer.

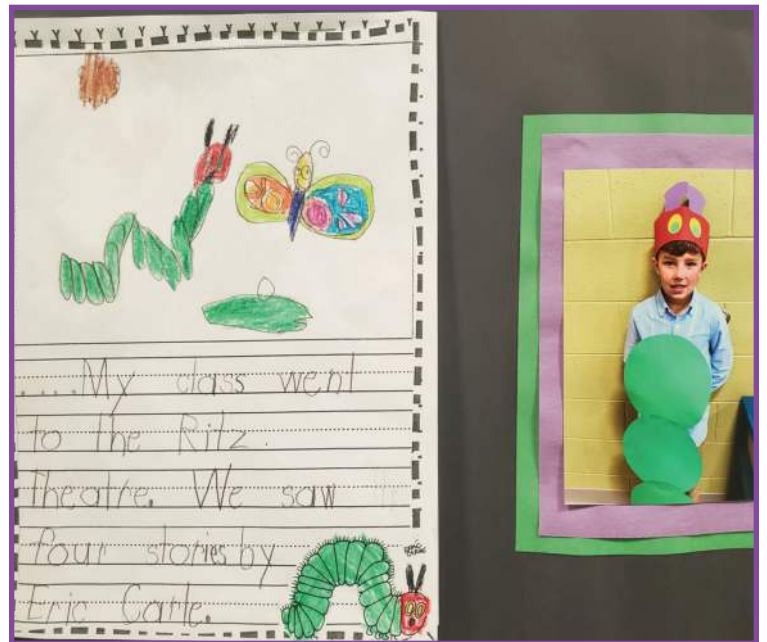
The Men with Manners program is another community service opportunity at Atkinson. These gentlemen can be seen walking the halls of Atkinson on their meeting days dressed up in shirts and ties. During their meetings, they complete community service projects such as picking up trash in the school yard as well as learning respect, manners, and leadership skills. Most recently, Deputy Jordan spoke to the Men with Manners about achieving goals, being a good citizen, and treating others with respect.



CROGHAN 1ST GRADE IS PUTTIN ON THE RITZ!

CROGHAN ELEMENTARY

The 1st grade students at Croghan were treated to a wonderful theatrical experience at The Ritz Theatre in Tiffin, Ohio. This school year, students have been completing an author study of Mr. Eric Carle, a famous storybook writer and illustrator known worldwide. First grade students have read *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do You See?*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and many more of his recognizable titles and, through reading them, have practiced their ability to sequence a story, summarize a story from beginning, middle to end, and recognize and practice their rhyming and repetitive sounds. Students also reviewed their knowledge of the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly and witnessed this same magical transformation right before their eyes on the stage of The Ritz Theatre! To bring their learning full circle, students posed for the camera as the cutest of caterpillars and practiced their sentence writing skills with their very neatest penmanship to tell about their dramatic experience!



Home of the Little Giants

FREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT: DEAR FMS

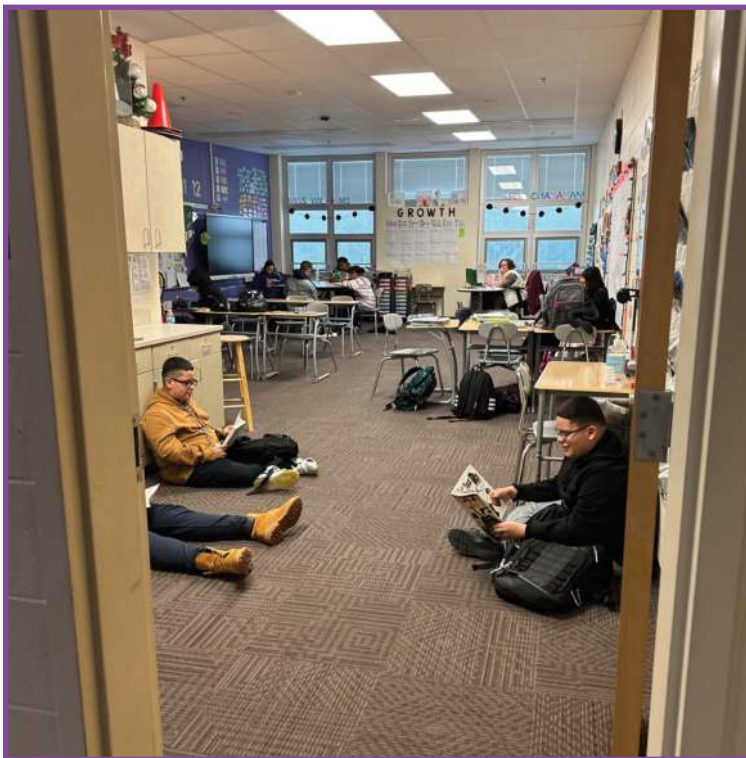
FREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL

As mentioned briefly in our last newsletter, FMS is excited to introduce a new initiative that promises to ignite the love for reading within our school walls: the Drop Everything and Read (DEAR FMS) Campaign! In a world buzzing with distractions, fostering a culture of reading is more crucial than ever. We believe that by embracing literature, we empower our students to embark on journeys of imagination, empathy, and lifelong learning.

The DEAR FMS Campaign encourages students and staff alike to pause, set aside their tasks, and immerse themselves in the world of books for a designated period every Friday. Whether it's fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, or poetry, DEAR FMS time offers a precious opportunity to explore diverse literary landscapes and expand our horizons.

Reading extends beyond the mere act of flipping through words on a page. It cultivates critical thinking skills, enhances vocabulary, and boosts empathy by allowing readers to walk in the shoes of characters from different backgrounds and experiences. Moreover, studies have shown that regular reading correlates with improved academic performance across subjects. By incorporating DEAR FMS into our weekly routine, we aim to nurture well-rounded individuals equipped with the tools for success.

As we embark on this exciting journey with the DEAR FMS Campaign, let's embrace the magic of reading and inspire each other to explore new literary realms. Together, let's cultivate a community where every student feels empowered to unlock the doors of imagination through the pages of a book.



Fremont City Schools

LUTZ EAGLE'S NEST AWARD WINNERS

LUTZ ELEMENTARY

Lutz Elementary recently celebrated students for their i-Ready diagnostic growth. This measure shows how individual students have made academic gains over the course of this school year. Students who made over 100% growth received a certificate. The class on each floor who had the highest overall growth was awarded the Eagle's Nest, which was filled with candy to reward students for their hard work so far this year. Mrs. Reynolds' first graders and Ms. Morris' third graders received this distinguished honor for the first time and are excited to keep a watch for more treats to come!



1ST GRADERS: (L-R) TUCKER FOWLER, SCARLET SCHWOCHOW, JAMESON TRIMBLE, TROY BAKER



3RD GRADERS: (L-R) GRIFFIN ADAMS, LANDON LEJEUNE, CAROLINE REED, ABIGAIL SCHWOCHOW



REGISTER NOW!

New Students K-12

<https://fremont-oh.finalforms.com/>



Home of the Little Giants

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Mental health can be viewed as the woven threads of our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors that greatly impact our lives. Yet, despite its undeniable importance, mental health is often pushed to the sidelines in the game of life. As we continue to learn and grow, we are reminded of the significance and the need to acknowledge its place in our world.

We know that children start feeling emotions at a young age. Emotions are helpful in fully enjoying life experiences, helping us connect with others, and serving as an “alarm system” when something is not right. (On Our Sleeves, 2023) As educators, we want to acknowledge the whole child who attends Fremont City Schools. We strive to provide challenging academic and enriching extracurricular and co-curricular options within a safe and nurturing environment.

During the 2023-24 school year, we have attempted to bring a deeper focus to the mental health of our students as well.

Some of the activities that have been added this year include:

Start with Hello Week (September 18-22)

Say Something Week (March 4-8)

Mental Health Day (Each building has chosen a day to incorporate activities and highlight options that students can return to when they are experiencing stress.)

These activities include something for everyone! They also establish a common language throughout the buildings and district. School staff can now refer back to these events and regularly re-incorporate ideas into the business of the school day. We hope that you continue on this journey with us as we educate the whole child who walks through our doors.



Start with Hello Week
Friday Conversation Starter
◀.....▶

What is the nicest thing someone has done for you?



Fremont City Schools

CRAFTING CREATIVITY IN ROSS WOOD SHOP

FREMONT ROSS

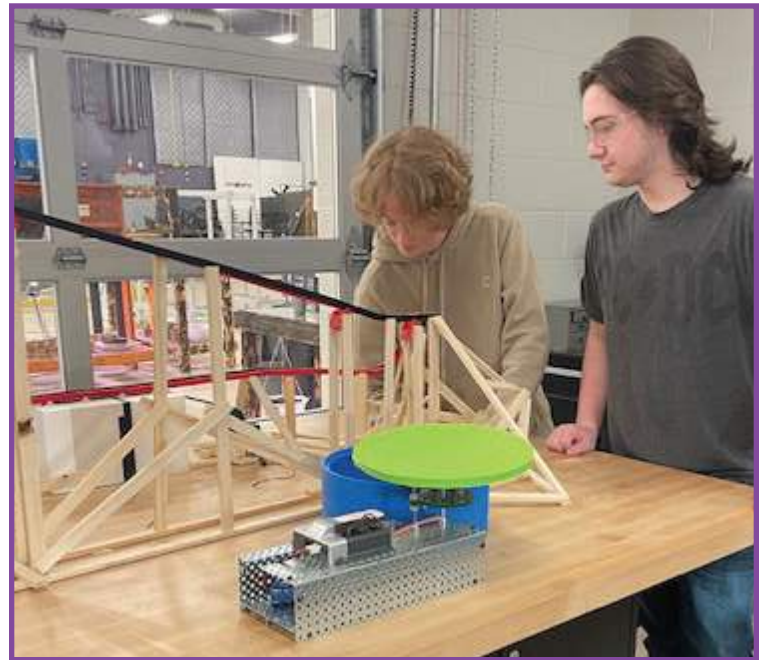
In the bustling halls of Fremont Ross High School, there exists a hidden haven for creativity and craftsmanship - the Wood Shop. This dynamic space is more than just saws and sandpaper; it's a place where students embark on a journey of skill development, teamwork, and the joy of creating tangible works of art.

Our high school wood shop is a melting pot of innovation where students learn to transform raw lumber into functional and aesthetically pleasing projects. From crafting cutting boards, to planting stations, to storage containers that hold the tools, our students discover the joy of working with their hands, turning their ideas into reality.

Beyond the physical products produced, our Woods, Engineering, and Agriculture classes foster valuable life skills. Patience, attention to detail, and problem solving become second nature as students navigate the complexities of designing and constructing. The hands-on nature of woodworking instills a sense of pride and accomplishment among our students that boosts their confidence and self-esteem.

Collaboration is a key aspect of the wood shop experience. Students learn to communicate effectively with each other, share ideas, and contribute to group projects. These collaborative experiences not only enhance woodworking skills, but also prepare our students for future endeavors where teamwork is crucial. The skills learned in these classes offer a connection to craftsmanship, allowing students to appreciate the beauty of creating something from scratch. Woodworking classes not only teach technical skills, but also instill an appreciation for the value of unique handmade items.

Of course to gain these skills and appreciation, we have to also acknowledge the dedicated teachers, Mr. Russ Brennan and Mr. Dave Rapp, who guide and challenge our students through the intricacies of woodworking. Their passion for craftsmanship and commitment to safety, as well as to the students themselves, contributes greatly to the success of these classes.



Home of the Little Giants

A STEP TOWARDS EQUITY IN EDUCATION

Education funding has long been a contentious issue in many states across the U.S., with disparities in resources often leading to unequal opportunities for students. In Ohio, the Fair School Funding Plan represents a significant step towards rectifying these disparities and ensuring that every child has access to a quality education, regardless of their zip code or socioeconomic background.

Enacted in 2020, the Fair School Funding Plan aims to overhaul Ohio's outdated school funding formula, which had been criticized for its inequities and inadequacies. The new plan seeks to provide a fair and equitable distribution of funds to school districts, taking into account factors such as student enrollment, demographic characteristics, and local property wealth.

Key components of the Fair School Funding Plan include:

1. **Base Cost Per Pupil:** The plan establishes a base cost per pupil, which serves as the foundation for calculating funding allocations to school districts. This base cost is determined by analyzing the actual costs of providing a quality education and is adjusted for factors such as grade level and student needs.

2. **Student Weights:** In recognition of the fact that certain students require additional resources and support to succeed, the plan assigns "weights" to different student demographics, such as students with disabilities, English language learners, and students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. These weights ensure that districts receive extra funding to address the specific needs of these students.

3. **Local Capacity:** While the Fair School Funding Plan aims to reduce reliance on local property taxes for education funding, it also takes into account a district's ability to generate revenue locally. Districts with higher property wealth may receive less state funding, while those with lower property wealth receive additional support to ensure equitable opportunities for all students.

4. **Phased Implementation:** Recognizing the financial constraints facing the state, the Fair School Funding Plan is being implemented gradually over a period of several years. This phased approach allows for a smooth transition and ensures that districts have time to adjust to the new funding formula.

The implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan marks a significant departure from past practices and represents a commitment to fairness, transparency, and equity in education funding. By addressing the underlying inequities in Ohio's school funding system, the plan aims to level the playing field for students across the state and provide every child with the resources they need to succeed.

However, challenges remain, particularly in terms of securing sufficient funding to fully support the plan and ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to meet the diverse needs of students. Continued advocacy, collaboration, and investment will be essential in realizing the full potential of the Fair School Funding Plan and ensuring that all Ohio students have access to a high-quality education.

As a District, we are committed to keeping our stakeholders informed about school funding. We will continue to share information on this topic in our newsletters and on our website. Please check us out online <https://www.fremontschools.net>.

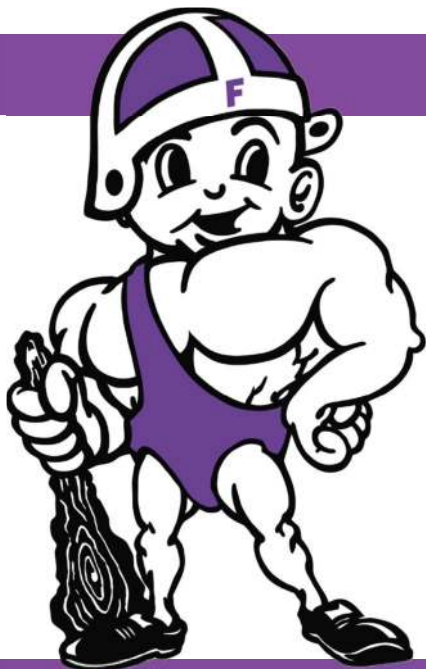




Fremont City Schools

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MISSION STATEMENT

We are committed to a culture of collaborative achievement, creating high performing individuals engaging successfully in a modern world.

VISION STATEMENT

Develop individuals who will thrive as they find their place in their local and global community.

Fremont City Schools Board policy of nondiscrimination extends to students, staff, job applicants, the general public and individuals with whom it does business and applies to race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status, age, disability, military status or genetic information.

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