

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community



Fremont Earns an "Effective" Rating on State Report Card

Dear Fremont Community,

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Fremont City Schools received an "Effective" rating on the State Report Card for its fourth consecutive year! The district made significant improvements in many areas of the 2009-10 report card. Listed below are some highlights from Fremont's report card.

- State Indicators: Fremont City Schools improved many of its scores on 15 of the 26 possible indicators on the 2009-10 report card. Significant improvements were made in grades 6-8 reading.
- Performance Index: Fremont scored a 92.6 out of 120 possible points. The performance index measures how well individual students score on state achievement tests.
- Adequate Yearly Progress: Nine of the ten student subgroups met Adequate Yearly Progress in the areas of math, reading, graduation, attendance and test participation.



The district's 2009-10 report card is available on the web site at www.fremontschools.net or copies are available at the district office at 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 on its building report card.

The district continues to make student achievement its first priority and I commend the teachers, students, support staff, parents and the Fremont Community for their work this past school year. The district report card results are very encouraging and each year we continue to move closer to the "Excellent" report card rating.

Sincerely,

Traci McCauley
Dr. Traci McCauley
Superintendent

Building the Dream Together: FCS K-12 College Awareness and Preparation Plan, Part II

In last month's edition, we shared an overview of the plan that the FCS Guidance Department will implement over the 201-2011

school year. This plan will increase awareness of college opportunities for all students. Highlights include: Parent/guardian meetings for all 4th, 5th and 6th grade

students by the end of the year, and college visits for all 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th grade students over the course of the year. For more information or to schedule an

appointment to discuss your child's future, please contact your school guidance counselor.



Please visit our school website at www.fremontschools.net to register for our new Online Community alumni database. Click on the alumni tab and the register link, once you are registered you will have access to update your online directory profile, view your personalized MyPage area including a sampling of recent class notes posted, and to add your own class/reunion notes.

While registering you will also have the opportunity to update your information with clubs/athletics you were involved in while at Ross. We now have a Facebook page, please join us.

If you have any reunion information you would like posted on the district website, please email us at alumni@fremont.k12.oh.us

Strong Academics

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Alumni News

Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community

Volunteer Reader Corner



This column will contain thoughtful tips for anyone interested in bringing the beautiful gift of volunteer reading into the life of a child.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer reader or know someone perfect for the opportunity, please contact Dwayne Arnold, program coordinator, at 419-665-2327 or arnoldd@fremont.k12.oh.us

The "Picture Walk"

We are generally curious beings. If we see something intriguing, we want to try to understand it. If we hear an unusual noise, we wonder where it came from. Children can be especially curious, since each day brings them new experiences and new questions to be answered.

In preparing children for a read-aloud session, you can stimulate their natural curiosity and pique their interest in a story by going through a "picture walk." Before opening the book, show the children the cover and read the title. Ask them what they think the story will be about, based only on what they see.

Then slowly flip through the book, page by page, without reading a single word. Ask the children questions about each picture they see, and try to elicit responses that require them to make inferences based upon the images, and not the words, on each page.

"What is going on here?" "Who is this?" "Why does the character look so excited?" "When is this story taking place?" "Where did the character just come from?" "How do you think the story is going to end?"

It's a great way to start any book with a child.

(Excerpts from Reading to Children Website) <http://readingtokids.org>

Reading to Children

by Dwayne Arnold

Reading to your daughter or son is one of the easiest ways to help your child in school. By role modeling reading, you provide your child with an action that they can do or reproduce. Reading Is Fundamental answered the following parent question: (<http://www.rif.org/kids/leadingtoreading/en/grown-ups.htm>)

"Dear RIF: Does it matter how I read aloud to my child or is it just important that I read? It is the act of reading that is most important; however, there are things you can do to maximize the benefits of the reading experience:



- Try to establish a regular time for reading aloud.
- Find a quiet, comfortable place; snuggling together while reading is important.
- Remove background distractions.
- Select a book both you and your child can enjoy.
- Point out the cover illustration and the author and illustrator's names.
- Read with expression; have fun bringing the characters and events to life.
- Read slowly so your child can take-in the words and associate them with the pictures.
- Encourage questions.
- Watch the child's body language to see if you need to take a break.
- Talk about the book afterward. Be sure to elicit the child's reaction.
- If it is a frequently read book, ask the child to retell the story in his own words.

If you need some reading materials, the librarian at the public library can assist you; and we here at Washington are willing to share some grade and age appropriate books for you to use with your child. All you have to do is ask.

Teachers are always in need of volunteers to serve as a Reading Role Model, too. If you are interested in volunteering or acquiring more information about reading to your child, call Mr. Arnold at 419-665-2327.

Atkinson gets "SMART"



Atkinson elementary is kicking off the school year with about nine new SMART boards in the classroom. Every grade level as the opportunity to interact with this new technology. Smart boards are the most common band of what is known as interactive whiteboards. They resemble large, white flat-screen televisions placed in front of the classroom and connected to the teacher's laptop. What is on the lap top appears on the SMART board. Students can write on the whiteboard using digital pens. The students will be able to interactively count money, read

stories, and connect with other students across the country or even the world. SMART boards enhance the potential for students' learning and comprehension. The interactive technology allows students to move beyond the traditional parameters of the classroom and engage in hands on learning. Mrs. Brandon's 5th grade is doing just that engaging in hands on learning in Social Studies.

Lutz Screens Kindergarteners



Fremont City School District has a kindergarten orientation that take place during the first two days of school. Each 20-minute session involves the parents, the child, and the teacher. It provides us with an opportunity to meet each other, share information, answer questions, and reduce any anxiety that the child may feel about coming to kindergarten. We do this in an effort to transition young children into the routine of school.

Curriculum Corner



Learning about financial literacy is clearly a relevant topic in our world today where economics is constantly headline news. The importance of our students developing a conceptual understanding of how money works and the implications of debit and credit cards has increased dramatically because our students are consumers of goods and services that have large price tags--particularly in the area of technology items. In direct relationship to these understandings, students need help with college and career planning so that the path they take will provide them with a sound financial future where they are able to support their needs and wants.

For several years Fremont Ross High School has included a financial planning program within the year-long senior government class. This course includes topics on budgets and debt management, investing, savings, insurance and career planning. This school year a new course at Fremont Middle School will provide all 8th graders with a 12-week course with topics such as decision-making and money, working and earning, getting your money's worth, savings and budgeting, credit concepts and future goals: college and career planning. This course is interactive by design with opportunities for self-reflection, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. What is interesting is that the class materials will come from a variety of sources including web based lessons. With strong financial and college and career planning curriculum, our students will be best prepared to make those important decisions as they grow into adults in our community.



Croghan: Character Education

Character education helps students know, care about, and act on core ethical values such as fairness, honesty, compassion, responsibility, and respect for self and others.

One of the Croghan's goals this year focuses on all students feeling safe and connected to school. A key component of this goal is working to ensure a safe and orderly environment in our buildings and our classrooms. Croghan staff and students have established clear school-wide rules and expectations for general behavior, and implementing programs that teach self-discipline and responsibility to students-including positive communication and conflict resolution skills. One of the programs we plan to use this year to reach the goal is called "Second Step". The Second Step program teaches social and emotional skills for violence prevention. The program includes research-based, teacher-friendly curriculum, training for educators, and parent-education components, and focuses on the following skills: Empathy, Impulse Control, Anger Management and Problem-Solving

The Second Step curriculum helps develop students' critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and corresponding social skills, thus addressing the "Head, heart, and hand" of character development.

The Second Step program, beginning this year, will replace the Peer Mediation program in effect for many years in the Fremont City Schools.

Safety is a Priority at FCS

The safety of each and every one of the students and staff attending Fremont City Schools is a top priority each and every day. Each building principal is required to assemble a safety team made up of building staff that meets on a regular basis to discuss safety issues affecting the building, such as locking doors and windows, drill schedules, or lockdown procedures. Each school year, the buildings are to conduct a fire drill for every month of attendance, a tornado drill during each month of torna-

do season (March through May), and a safety drill (lockdown) by December 1st of the school year. The September fire drill must be conducted within the first ten days of each new school year.

All buildings are required to conduct a building evacuation drill on an annual basis, if not more. During these drills, all students and staff walk to their designated evacuation site and simulate how students will be safely supervised and held until parents or guardians can sign for their release. Evacuations would

only occur in situations when building occupancy would be of high risk, such as a bomb threat or chemical spill.

It is the goal of Fremont City Schools to keep all students in school everyday focused on academics, but if and when emergencies occur, each building staff will be ready to protect all students. We appreciate the cooperation of all parents and guardians in understanding the need for drill practice and reinforcing the district safety procedures.

FMS Welcomes Students

For returning 8th and incoming 7th grade students, the start of a new school year at Fremont Middle School comes with uncertainty and promise. "Where is my class?" "I can't remember my combination?" "Will I know anybody on my team?" These questions and issues quickly fade away as the students understand the routine, and become more confident in their abilities.

Soon they assume leadership roles as they become more involved in sports, clubs, and various other co-curricular activities. Together with students, teachers, staff, and most importantly, parents, we will make this one of the best years ever.

Strategies to Reduce Bullying

On August 26th, the staff of Fremont City Schools met to kick-off the school year in preparation for opening day. A primary focus was ensuring that all students feel safe at school. Jill Jackson (Ohio Department of Education) and Kathleen Nichols (Office of the Attorney General) joined us and shared a presentation on the

topic of reducing bullying. Key strategies included: knowing what to look for, being responsive when a student or parent shares a concern, following up with communication and implementing supports to build positive coping skills for all children. FCS has procedures in place for reporting bullying concerns. For more information, please refer

to the student handbook or contact your building principal. You can also view a copy of the presentation from ODE on our website at www.fremontschools.net. Together we can make a difference. Look for future updates on additional activities and opportunities for our students, staff and families to build positive supports within our schools.

Otis Celebrates School and Family



On Monday evening, the Perez family worked together to secure parent-teacher conference times and to enjoy Open House. The children range from Kindergarten to grade 4 and all were able to see their classrooms and meet their teachers. Working as a team, they demonstrated many of our words of the month which the children will learn throughout the school year. Many Otis

families were able to join us at Open House! It was a wonderful example of commitment to School and Family as we watched families work together, embrace a new school year, and have fun!

Sportmanship: A Priority at Ross



Senior students Meagan Eishen, Amy Yuhus and Eric Yuhus unveiled the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Banner awarded to Ohio high schools and middle schools Friday September 3 at the first Ross High School pep rally. The award is given to only 77 schools in the state by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. The three students along with their leadership

class completed an intense application that detailed the schools commitment to sportsmanship, integrity and ethics.

Orientation at Hayes



Mrs. Christina McBride, new kindergarten teacher at Hayes, is meeting with JB Sims and his mother, Mrs. Michelle Sims, for their orientation before the first day of kindergarten. JB answered questions that Mrs. McBride asked him that told her what he knows from a state assessment: Kindergarten Readiness Assessment in Literacy (KRA-L). Mrs. Sims received general information from the teacher that emphasized open communication

from school to home and to continue it from home to school. Parents play a very important role in the success of their child's education.

Generosity on Display at Stamm



Stamm School was recently the recipient of heartfelt generosity on the part of many thoughtful people. The parishioners of Sanctuary Chapel on Wood Street spent all summer saving school supplies for the students at Stamm. On August 30th, Bishop Mark Connelly delivered the supplies to Principal, Mrs. Christine Oravets, to be distributed to students who were in need of them. The donation of approximately \$250 worth of supplies is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use, both now and throughout the school year. We are extremely thankful to the parishioners of Sanctuary Chapel for

their thoughtfulness at this time of year toward our students and families. Additionally, Stamm wishes to thank The United Way for their generous donation of school supplies again this year, as many of our families benefit from their support.

Notes from the Treasurer Investment Earnings

During a recent phone conversation I was asked why school districts don't look to invest monies into the stock market in order to obtain better earnings on investments, thus reducing the need for levies.

The simple answer is the State of Ohio will not allow school districts to place taxpayer money in high risk investments. This can now be looked upon by the taxpayer as a good practice. The collapse of the stock market in 2008 saw school districts throughout the state having reductions in investment earnings, not investment losses.

School districts can invest money in certificates of deposit, treasuries, and commercial paper (if they have received the necessary training). The State has placed limitations to the investments in each category. As an example, certificates of deposit can only be placed for a maximum of five years using commercial rates. Therefore, an individual can go into a bank and invest in a two-year CD with a current rate of .95%, however, the school district can invest in the same CD and would receive a lower commercial rate.

Below is a chart of investment earnings over the past four years. As interest rates have plummeted with the economy the district investment earnings have reduced. The school district has obtained more interest earnings for operations because of these investments as opposed to letting taxpayer money sit in a bank.

The Fremont City School District has and will continuously look to obtain the best investment earnings available for taxpayer money.

Fiscal Year	Investment Earnings
2006-2007	\$419,689.22
2007-2008	\$413,043.80
2008-2009	\$218,467.29
2009-2010	\$ 96,862.85

FCS Opening Staff Meeting

On August 26th, FCS staff opened the 2010-2011 school year at Grace Community Church. At this meeting new staff were introduced and Dr. McCauley shared highlights from last school year and discussed the goals for the upcoming academic year. Also during this meeting consultants from the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Attorney General's Office gave a presentation entitled

"Ohio's Anti-Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Initiative: Collaborations for Creating Safe and Supportive Learning Environments."

The day ended with a cookout luncheon sponsored by several of the FMS project's prime contractors. Thanks to the following for making the FCS staff opening day a huge success: Telamon Construction, Touchstone

CPM, Lake Erie Electric, Warner Mechanical, Fanning Howey, Fremont Recreation Department, Grace Community Church, Tom Woleslagel and U*New Tent Rental, Bella Cosa Floral Studio, Fricker's, 818 Club, Chud's, Davinci's, Whitey's Diner, Bob Evans, Fremont Ross Athletic Boosters, and the Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce.



From left to right: FCS new teacher Jonathan Torrence meets Felecia Tchen. The Stamm staff gets acquainted with their new principal, Christine Oravets. Kathleen Nichols from the Ohio Attorney General's Office talks to staff about bullying identification and prevention.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Fremont City Schools is to develop well-educated, lifelong 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

The Fremont City School District will not discriminate nor tolerate harassment in its educational programs or activities for any reason, including on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, military status, sexual orientation or ancestry. Additionally, it will not discriminate in its employment policies nor practices.