



Fremont City Schools

Superintendent's Message

Important Dates:

Jan. 18—Martin Luther King Jr. Day—No School

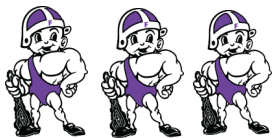
Feb. 4—Ross Parent Teacher Conferences 3:15-6:45

Feb 6—ACT Testing @ Ross 7:00 AM

Feb. 11—FMS Parent Teacher Conferences 3:15-6:45

Feb. 15—Presidents' Day—No School

Feb. 23—Juniors' ACT Testing Day—read more information on back page.



Board of Education Meetings:

- Jan. 25, 2021
- Feb. 8, 2021
- Feb. 22, 2021
- March 8, 2021

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. at Fremont Middle School. Please visit the FCS website, www.fremontschools.net, for a complete list of meetings, meeting minutes and other pertinent information.

Hello Fremont Families,

As I sit down to write this letter, I am reading the news of the first vaccinations being administered in Ohio. The first recipients are, appropriately, our front line health workers. To me, it also seems fitting that the first shots are being given just before Christmas. Regardless of your religious background, this is a season of hope. A time when peace seems possible and goodwill to all appears more realistic.

For the last 10 months, we have been on what I have heard labeled “The Emotional COVID Rollercoaster” and this certainly describes my experience. Swings of optimism interrupted by moments of discouragement as we do the best we can during uncertain times. It has taken a toll on all of us. Last spring, I told the graduating class at our drive-in ceremony about “The Greatest Generation”. This is the generation of Americans that survived a global pandemic, grew up during the great depression, and lived through WWII. They were formed by the challenges they faced. They are remembered for how they responded. This will be true for us. I know, as well, that the current staff of Fremont City Schools will never be the same. We will be more creative, more flexible, and more committed than before. We will be more appreciative for a room FULL of kids and the energy that comes with it. We will enjoy the happy chatter on a Friday afternoon on a bus packed with kids and the low roar in the cafeteria in the last few moments of a lunch period. We will never take for granted the power that our visible smiles have to brighten a student's day. We will be thankful to actually see the glow of new understanding as it spreads across the unmasked face of a child. We may not be the next “Greatest Generation”, but we will be better, and that is cause for hope.

Jon C. Detwiler



BUCKET DRUMMING

The students at Atkinson have been getting into the holiday spirit during Mrs. Covert's music class. Using holiday songs, she has been teaching drumming techniques. The second and fourth grade classes have been learning how to tap on paper cups to make and follow rhythms. Pictured are some of the fifth graders who learned about 'bucket drumming' for the first time this year. Using buckets decorated with Santa belts and plastic drumsticks (for easy sanitizing), the students drummed along to "The March" from the Nutcracker Suite. This particular song allowed the students to practice triplet rhythms on their drums. They watched a video on the interactive whiteboard and followed along with the three part score of the music while reading the rhythm patterns! Beforehand, Mrs. Covert also taught the fifth graders about the various sounds you can make on a drum. For example, hitting the top of the drum (or bucket) will produce a low sound. When you tap on the rim of the drum or bucket you will get a high sound. Lastly, you can make a clicking sound by simply tapping the sticks together. Our students have enjoyed ending 2020 with a BANG in music class!



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Even though the Lutz Make-A-Difference Club has been unable to meet in person this school year, we have still been busy making a difference in people's lives. We started the year by making gifts for the staff at Lutz, letting them know how much they are appreciated. We then colored pictures for local veterans.

We have had two big projects this year. First, we helped the American Legion remove the veterans' flags from Oakwood Cemetery. There are over 2,500 flags that are put up annually to honor our veterans. Some members of the club spent part of a morning helping remove the flags, which was much appreciated by the American Legion. Second, we organized a drive for the Liberty Center. We collected tissues, paper plates, napkins, and various sizes of baggies. The group was able to collect over 60 items for the Liberty Center. The Lutz Make-A-Difference Club will continue to work throughout the remainder of the school year on positively impacting the lives of others.



HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Pack your bags and don't forget your passport! Croghan jetsetters embarked on a journey around the world and touched down in four different countries: Africa, Mexico, Germany, and England. They learned about the special traditions practiced in each foreign land this time of year.

Each grade level was designated one of the countries and were encouraged to “deck the halls” by representing each of their nation’s creatively. Along their travels, the students constructed little mementos like the “Unity Cup” used for African Kwanzaa celebrations and the “Christmas Cracker”, a fun tradition practiced after Christmas dinner in England. They later stuffed their school-made souvenirs in their sturdy construction paper suitcases to take home and share with their family. Students even received a stamp for each destination to make their educational expedition official! Hopefully, this successful event will become a Croghan tradition of it’s own!



SERVICE BEHIND THE MASK

Leadership, Character Building, Caring and Inclusiveness

Students at Ross are aware of the needs of others, not only within the school, but also within the community. There are several clubs and organizations that are consistently seeking out ways to help, one of which is the Key Club. They recognize that people of all ages need a little extra support from time to time. They don't sit back and wait for someone else to do it. These students take an idea and just go for it!

What in the world is Key Club? Founded in 1925, Key Club International is the oldest service program for high school students. There are thousands of clubs in over 38 countries. It is a student-led organization whose goal is to encourage leadership through serving others.

Key Club empowers its members to lead and serve by cultivating leadership skills, developing friendships, and performing community service. Key Club members have a passion for helping others while they gain leadership skills to carry with them for a lifetime.

Community organizations know that when they need assistance running events or getting some "dirty work" done, they have students who will gladly stand up to volunteer. Of course, COVID-19 has put a damper on the numerous community events that they normally would have worked, as well as the way that students are permitted to participate; however, it has not squashed their hearts or their enthusiasm.

They made Veterans Day cards and delivered them to the VFW to honor our local heroes. Dog toys were made with old t-shirts and delivered to the Sandusky County Dog Warden's Office. They met several times in shifts at the Community Fortress to assist Lynette Kirsch from Share and Care to sort items and put together almost 100 boxes to support Operation Christmas Child with gifts that were sent to children overseas. They were even there working to pack the last of the boxes before they needed to be sent to the Shipping Center in Chicago!

Key Clubbers were invited by Joni Hasselbach to "Pour Paint" a table at Pottery Perfection. This table is dedicated to all Key Clubbers past and present to thank students for their service and dedication to helping others in the community. It's a definite "must-see" downtown!



Looking carefully at the Key Club logo, one sees three colors. The white represents Purity, the blue-Unwavering Character, and the gold-Service. Each of these colors are identified in our Ross Key Club students. This spring, watch for the 3,000 yellow tulips that will bloom downtown. Not only will these represent part of the Yellow Tulip project, bringing light and hope to those suffering from mental illness, but they also show the true colors of these young adults' hearts.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in making a difference in the lives of others, please contact Ross Key Club Advisor, Brenda Widman at widmanb@fremontschools.net. If they see a need, they'll take the lead, and if you need them, they'll be there masked, ready, willing, and able to provide.



FMS COUNSELORS' TIPS

We are in unprecedented times, and it seems like the year of 2020 has given us a lot of things that have made us have to adjust to how we live our lives. For teens, this can be very challenging and stressful. With that in mind, the FMS counselors wanted to share some stress management activities for students and parents to use. COVID-19 has thrown a lot at us, but with some time and effort put into our mental health, we can overcome it.

With COVID-19 all around us, you may be feeling worried, bored, or frustrated. COVID-19 can be frightening, and you are not the only one feeling stressed. It is natural to be concerned for your friends and family, or about uncertainty and changes in your daily routine.

Here are some things that you can do to help manage your stress:

Learn more about COVID-19. If you know the facts and stop the spread of rumors about COVID-19, it can help you by allowing you to feel more in control of what is happening.

You can be social, but do it from a distance, such as reaching out to friends by phone, text, video chat, and social media.

Find ways to relax. FMS has a great resource for this called the “FMS Virtual Calming Room”. This was created to provide a place for students, families, and staff to find tools and strategies for managing emotions and feelings and also builds our resilience during this pandemic. The calming room can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/fremontschools.net/fms-virtual-calming-room/>

Keep to a schedule. Plan times for doing schoolwork, relaxing, and connecting with friends.

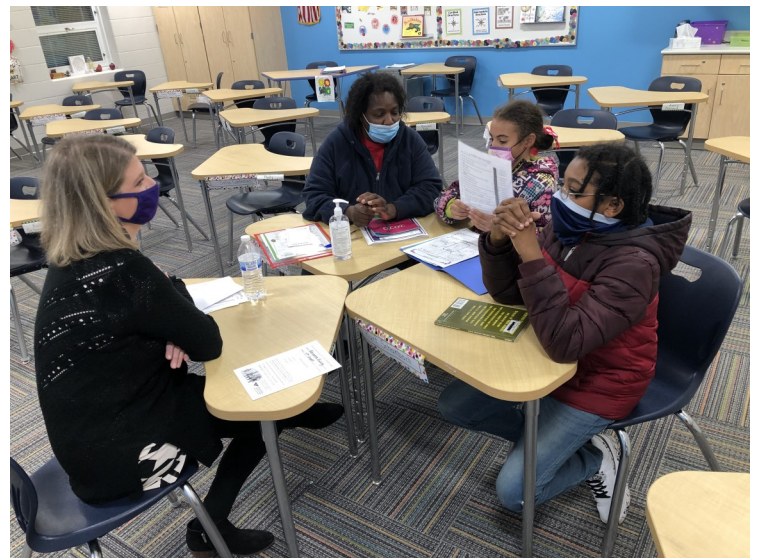
Talk with someone you trust about your thoughts and feelings. Each grade level has a trained school counselor that you can talk to in person or virtually! You can find their contact information at the Counselor Corner site: <https://sites.google.com/fremontschools.net/fms-counselor-corner>

The FMS school counselors are here to help you during this stressful time. Working together, we will all get through this, and we will come out better from it!

MAKING LEADERS

An overarching goal at Otis Elementary is to have all students be leaders. Leaders are naturally more accountable and responsible for their learning and tend to be more confident in what they are doing.

During the fall conferences, all Otis students had a chance to showcase their leadership skills of what they had learned as they led their own parent conference. Students were in charge of many aspects of the conference, including reporting on their current grades, showing their growth, and of course setting goals for the future. Truly, students at Otis Elementary are being empowered to be leaders in and out of the classroom.



Building a Bright Future!



Academic Classroom



Cafeteria

The high school project is on time for the scheduled January 2022 opening. The building is totally under roof and fully heated. So, if you don't see much action outside, don't worry, the workers are busy inside. FCSD is excited to say that the project is running slightly under budget at this time! If you have any questions about the building project that you would like addressed, please email them to fcsconstruction@fremontschools.net.

Performing Art Stage



Weight Room



LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER



ACT TESTING FOR ROSS JUNIORS

On Tuesday, February 23rd, the mandated ACT testing for Ross juniors will take place. **ONLY** Ross juniors will attend school at the high school on this day. All other buildings will be as usual. Both at-school and virtual learners **MUST** come to Ross to complete this free attempt of the ACT test. A hot breakfast will be served starting at 7:00 a.m. Students will be released to testing rooms at 7:30 a.m. Testing should be completed by noon. Parents/guardians of students who wish to be dismissed after testing must complete the permission slip that will be sent out this month to the email address listed in Final Forms. Those without permission will have to stay at Ross until 2:30 p.m. Transportation will maintain its regular schedule. There will be no FCS transportation provided for students who are dismissed immediately following testing. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Christine Oravets at (419)334-5461 or oravetsc@fremontschools.net.

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED

Fremont City Schools is in need of Substitute Teachers, all levels (elementary, middle, high) and in all subject areas. If you have a Bachelor's Degree and are interested in teaching, you may be able to obtain an Ohio Substitute Teaching License. For more information, visit the Ohio Department of Education's website at <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Educator-Licensure/Audiences/Substitute-Licensure>.

We are also in need of support staff substitutes. These positions include bus drivers, cooks, custodians, student monitors, paraprofessionals and secretaries.

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.