

# THE FREDDIESCOPE

A NEWSLETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF THE FREDERICKTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Fredericktown Schools...

...Every day, Everyone Learning and Adapting to Excel in a Changing World

October 2024

Volume LIV, Number 1

Celebrating Fredericktown Since 1971

## Mr. Chapman's Update

Dear Parents and Families,

It's incredible to think that we're already nearing the end of the school year's first quarter! I want to express my appreciation for your partnership in providing our students with the support and "investment in opportunities that maximize the educational experience and growth of every student."

Homecoming was a fantastic night for Fredericktown! Witnessing the energy, spirit, and traditions that make our school such a special place was tremendous. From the District-Wide pep rally and the presentation of our Homecoming court on Friday to the dance on Saturday, it was a memorable weekend for our students, staff, and families alike.

As we settle into the rhythm of the school year, I want to remind everyone of the power of words and the importance of meaningful conversations. The connections we build with our children—during family meals or on the way to school—are invaluable. Let's prioritize talking to our kids, listening to them, encouraging them, and reminding them how much they are valued. Our words can uplift, inspire resilience, and strengthen our relationships.

Lastly, I want to address an important issue: the safety of our school community. Any threats made against the district, whether in jest or anger, are taken extremely seriously. We are fully committed to maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all students and staff, and we need your active involvement in this effort. Please encourage your children to speak up if they see or hear anything concerning and remind them that their words and actions carry great impact.

Again, thank you for your ongoing support of our students and schools. I look forward to all that our students will accomplish in the months ahead. Together we are not only stronger, but better for our kids.

It's a great time to be a FREDDIE!



## Homecoming 2024!

From start to finish, this year's Homecoming was truly one to remember. The pep rally kicked things off with tons of energy, even the little Freddies were thrilled to be part of the action! We were also proud to celebrate the beautiful Homecoming Court, with special congratulations to our Homecoming Queen, Morgan "Pink" Payne, and her escort, Rylan Levering-Smith. Pink also serves as our Marching Band Field Commander, bringing all her talent, while looking stunning as she performed on the field, and accepted her crown.

The evening was filled with excitement, including an extraordinary performance by our band, which welcomed back some familiar faces, FHS alumni joined in for both the pregame, halftime, and postgame shows! This first-ever Alumni Band performance was a real treat for everyone in attendance. And of course, the night wouldn't be complete without an incredible win!

Congratulations to Our Freddies on a Fantastic Victory!



FHS 2024 Homecoming Court (l-r: Ellie Kershner, Cicely Bartsch, Pink Payne, Taylor Brown and Cally Carpenter)

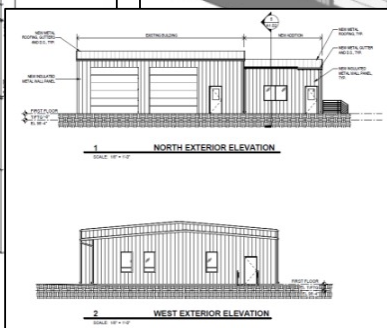
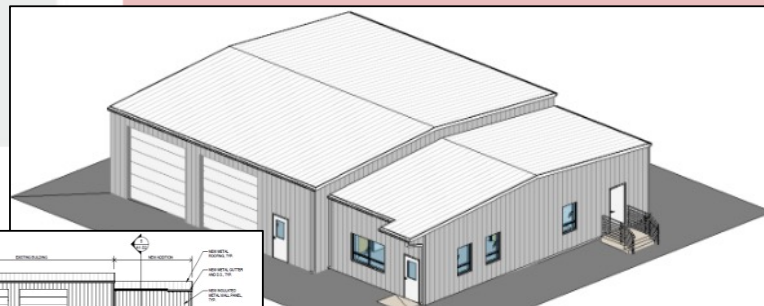
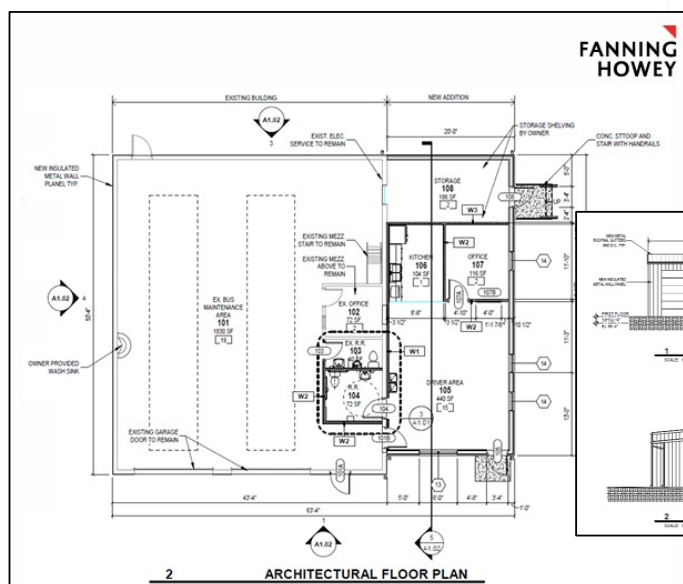


## Bus Garage Renovation and Expansion

The Fredericktown Board of Education has taken the next step in addressing the district's growing transportation needs by approving the expansion of the bus garage. The board has approved the district to seek bids for the project, with a budget set at \$800,000, current estimates for the work are between \$730,000 and \$740,000, per the design and engineering firm Fanning Howey.

The bus garage, located at 1209 South Main St., currently has just one maintenance bay, which has proven insufficient to meet the district's needs. In addition to the expansion, several repairs are necessary to improve the facility. Plans include adding approximately 945 sq' to the west side of the garage, creating a second maintenance bay and enlarge the space. Other renovations will address roofing issues, as well as heating and electrical upgrades.

This expansion will ensure that the district can properly maintain its bus fleet and continue to provide reliable transportation for Fredericktown students.



## K-12 STEAM → PLTW Path to Success

Starting in the 2024-25 school year, Fredericktown Schools began a transition to a fully integrated K-12 STEAM curriculum, aiming to equip students with the skills needed to succeed in an increasingly technological world. This initiative is designed to foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity, preparing our students for the challenges of tomorrow.



STEAM—standing for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math—is more than just a curriculum. It's a philosophy of education that encourages students to think critically and work creatively through hands-on, real-world projects. From brainstorming and designing to collaborating and communicating, students will engage with the material in ways that inspire curiosity and perseverance.

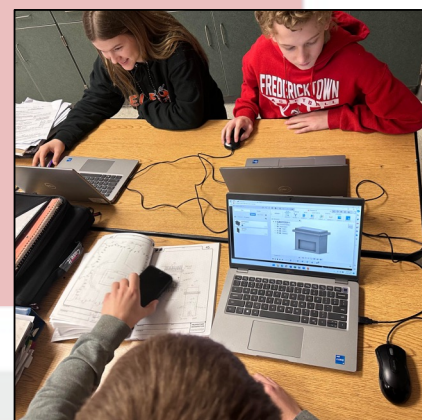
The STEAM journey will begin in our elementary classrooms, where students will be introduced to the foundational principles. As they move through the grade levels, they will build upon these skills, leading them to more specialized options when they reach high school. Once in high school, students can continue their STEAM path by participating in Project Lead the Way (PLTW) programs, focusing on either engineering or biomedical science.

PLTW offers a unique opportunity for students to apply the concepts they've learned in practical,

real-world settings. This hands-on experience helps students explore potential careers in STEAM fields before they graduate, giving them valuable insight into their future career choices. By the time they finish high school, students in the STEAM/PLTW pathway will be better prepared to pursue careers in engineering, science, and technology.

One of the most exciting aspects of this initiative is the strong connection between PLTW and higher education. Colleges and universities, including The Ohio State University and other institutions across Ohio, offer college credit for PLTW students, allowing them to get a head start on their college education and career goals. We are excited to embark on this new journey, one that will prepare our students not only for college but for a future filled with innovation and opportunity. STEAM/PLTW is about more than just academics—it's about preparing the next generation of thinkers, creators, and problem-solvers.

Stay tuned as we continue to build this exciting program and prepare our students for a bright future in STEAM fields!





## Knox County Reunification Guide

We prioritize the safety of your children. Our efforts encompass preparedness for various emergency scenarios, including fires, gas leaks, severe weather, and security breaches. Throughout the school year, we conduct drills to ensure we are well-prepared.

Beginning with the 2024-25 school year Fredericktown Schools has partnered with the county to add a reunification aspect to our emergency plans. In the event of an emergency, students would be safely evacuated via our school buses to a designated reunification location, Energy Fieldhouse at 101 Yellow Jacket Drive, Mt Vernon. Allowing parents and guardians to pick up their children after an emergency in a safe space.

This reunification location is the **ONLY** place students may be picked up to prevent road blockages and ensure access for emergency personnel. In such situations, parents and guardians would receive notifications to proceed to Energy Fieldhouse for student pickup. Please remember to carry photo identification for verification. One very important part of reunification is making sure that students are picked up by the correct guardian.

Students will only be released to a person listed in their record as having permission to pick up that student at school. It's crucial to keep your contact information updated with the district.

Upon arrival at Energy Fieldhouse, clear signage will be posted, and a greeter will provide parents with immediate information. Identification will be verified, and you will be guided to the gym area to reunite with your student(s) to exit together.

Examples of the Reunification Scenarios are school emergencies, natural disasters and public events.



## Volley for a Cause

**You Good?** That was the theme as our Freshman Volleyball team organized the 2nd Annual "Volley for a Cause" event to honor the memory of a beloved teammate who tragically lost her life to suicide. It is a reminder of the importance of mental health awareness and support in our community, with all proceeds donated to the Knox County Suicide Prevention Coalition.

This event would not have been possible without the dedication of our school social workers, Mrs. Hannah Art and Mrs. Cindy Truex, all the amazing volunteers, the enthusiasm of the players, both Centerburg, and Fredericktown, and the generosity of our community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each one of you who participated, donated, or simply offered words of encouragement.

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, please reach out to our social workers or call or text 988 to connect with a trained crisis counselor 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



## Celebrating Our Vets

We are excited and honored to welcome Fredericktown alumna Emily Tharp, class of 1997, as our guest speaker for this year's Veterans Day presentation on Monday, November 11. Captain Tharp serves as a U.S. Coast Guard Captain and Naval Engineer. Throughout her distinguished career, she has led critical missions safeguarding America's coasts, rescuing those in peril, and enforcing maritime law.



Her service has taken her to the far reaches of the Antarctic, Arctic, Florida Keys, Caribbean, and Eastern Pacific Ocean via the Panama Canal. Along the way, she has been involved in drug trafficking enforcement, migrant interdiction, border security, search and rescue operations, and providing scientific support.

We will also take time to honor Fredericktown veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice. Their names are commemorated on a beautiful plaque, generously shared by Mickey Cochran, serving as a lasting tribute to their bravery and dedication to our nation. This heartfelt display ensures that their memory and the legacy of their service live on within our community.

Please join us in welcoming Captain Emily Tharp and other distinguished veterans as we honor their service and sacrifices at our Veterans Day presentation.

**Fredericktown Veterans Day**  
**Monday, November 11, 2024**  
**9:00 AM**  
**Fredericktown High School Gym**







# Fredericktown Local School District

117 Columbus Road Fredericktown, OH 43019

Gary Chapman, Superintendent | (740) 694-2956  
Heather Darnold, Treasurer | (740) 694-2956 x4100

## Frederickton Local Schools

### Board of Education:

Paul Napier, President  
Nate Bellman, Vice President  
Don Falk  
Kristine Lindeman  
Shelly Wenger

U.S. Postage  
Non-Profit Organization  
Fredericktown, Ohio 43019  
Permit # 1895012

## OCCUPANT

## Look Inside For...

- Mr. Chapman's Update
- Bus Garage Renovation
- Homecoming 2024!
- STEAM & PLTW
- Celebration Seniors!

Website: [www.fredericktownschools.com](http://www.fredericktownschools.com)

Facebook: @FredericktownLocalSchools

Instagram: @Fred\_Local\_Schools

