

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

March 2025

Volume LIV, Number 3

Celebrating Fredericktown Since 1971

Mr. Chapman's Update

Dear Fredericktown School Community,

As we continue working to provide the best possible education for our students, I want to take a moment to update you on some proposed changes in state funding that could significantly impact our district. Governor Mike DeWine's proposed budget includes \$23.4 billion for education over the next two years, completing the school funding formula that began in 2021. While this represents a small increase in funding, House Bill 96 introduces concerning cuts to the state's support for public schools, which could present challenges for Fredericktown and districts across Ohio.

The proposed reductions would leave public schools, with fewer resources to serve students effectively. If enacted, districts across Ohio, including Fredericktown, may face difficult choices, such as larger class sizes, reductions in student support services, and cuts to programs. Additionally, local taxpayers could be asked to cover these shortfalls, placing a greater financial burden on our community.

Fredericktown Local Schools has always been committed to academic excellence, student growth, and community partnership. Despite these funding challenges, we will continue to do everything in our power to ensure that our students receive the high-quality education they deserve. However, we must acknowledge that funding decisions at the state level have a direct impact on our ability to provide critical programs and services.

Now, more than ever, it is essential for parents, educators, and community members to stay informed and engaged in discussions about school funding. I encourage you to reach out to your local representatives and share your thoughts on how these changes could affect our students and schools. Your voice matters, and together, we can advocate fair and equitable funding for all children.

Thank you for your continued support of Fredericktown Local Schools. Our students are our priority, and with your partnership, we will continue working toward a bright future for every child in our district.

Go Freddie!



Honoring a Legacy: June Carpenter is Our Freddie Fan of the Year

Fredericktown Schools and our athletic program had the privilege of honoring a truly remarkable individual as our Freddie Fan of the Year 2025. June Carpenter was posthumously recognized as the Freddie Fan of the Year, a fitting tribute to her 78 years of unwavering support for Fredericktown sports. June's love for the Freddie's ran deep, spanning generations. She enthusiastically cheered for her brother, nephews, sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as they proudly wore the Scarlet and Grey.

For June, game nights spent cheering alongside her friends were cherished highlights of each week. Though June passed away on January 13th, her passion for the Freddie's never wavered. Her legacy endures through the generations of Carpenters who continue to support Fredericktown athletics. The sight of the Carpenter family filling the stands tonight was a moving testament to the love and dedication June had for the Freddie's. Accepting the award on her behalf were her sons—Jim, Duke, and Jeff Carpenter—who graciously represented their mother's lasting impact on the community.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Fredericktown Athletic Boosters and all of Freddie Nation for making this tribute possible. It was a beautiful evening, filled with memories, gratitude, and celebration of a life well-lived and a legacy that will continue to inspire.



Freddies Boys and Girls Basketball Teams Cinch KMAC Titles!

It was a historic season for Fredericktown basketball as both the boys and girls teams secured Knox Morrow Athletic Conference (KMAC) championships!

The Freddies girls edged Centerburg 50-45 in a thrilling matchup. With 4.2 seconds remaining, Cally Carpenter sealed the victory with a clutch steal, sparking a roar from the Fredericktown crowd. Carpenter led the way with 24 points, while Mya Bryant added 17. Head coach Jared Pryor praised his team's resilience and their battle-ready spirit. The girls showed up to play and did so to the end.

The following week, Carpenter made Fredericktown history by becoming the all-time leading scorer for girls' basketball with 393 points scored this year, solidifying her legacy as one of the program's greatest players.

The boys team clinched their title with a 77-71 victory over Cardington, becoming the first team this season to win on the Cardington's home court. The Freddies built an early lead and maintained composure late, using accurate free-throw shooting to hold off a Cardington comeback. Blake Sipes led with 26 points, Carson Rinehart added 20, and Brode Davis and Zane Luckmeier each contributed 11. Head Coach, Derik Dibling who has won four out of the last five conference championships the Freddies have competed for, including the three peat for the KMAC this year, credited his team's hard work throughout the season, and how it is truly paying off now.

Together, the Freddies boys and girls teams have shown what it means to play with heart, determination, and championship spirit. Great Job Freddies!



Congratulations to Cally Carpenter for becoming the all-time leading scorer for Freddie Girls BB.



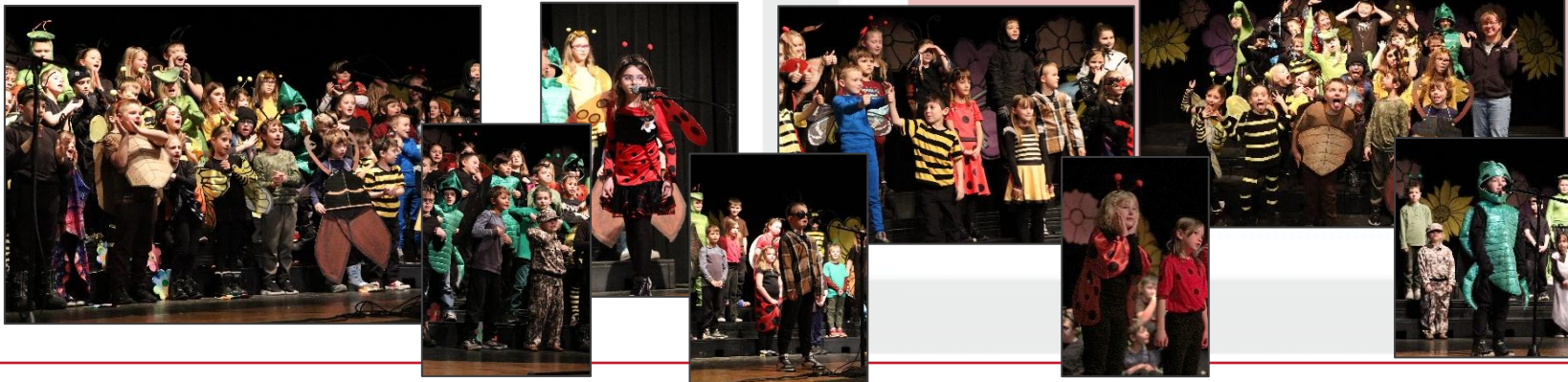
A shoutout to our lone senior basketball player, Bradyn Clevenger, and our incredible senior cheerleaders—Alexa Hammond, Tori Billings, Caroline Reiss, Ellie Dilgard, and Madi Copley, for their energy and support all season long!

2nd Graders Shine in BUGZ! The Musical!

The Fredericktown 2nd graders recently took center stage with their spectacular performance of BUGZ! The Musical!

The show revolved around a grand picnic where everyone pitched in to make it a success. The Lady Bugs ensured everyone minded their manners with proper etiquette, while the Army Ants stood guard to keep things running smoothly. The Fireflies lit up the stage, and the Bumble Bees buzzed with high-energy entertainment. Everything was set for a perfect picnic—until an unexpected guest arrived! The Stink Bug wanted to join in the fun, but the other critters had to work together to save the party.

This country-style hoedown had the audience tapping their feet and singing along. Their production was full of humor, teamwork, and valuable lessons about acceptance and inclusion, leaving everyone buzzing with joy!



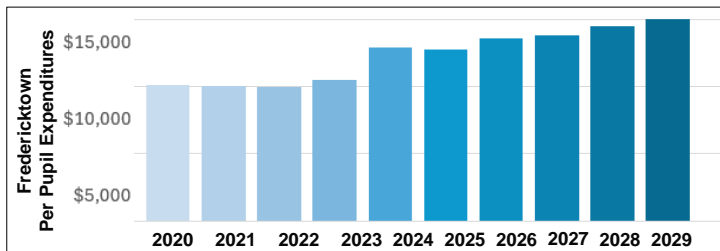
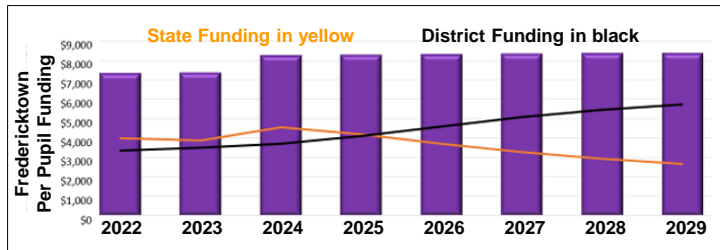
State of the District: School Funding

Governor Mike DeWine’s proposed \$23.4 billion education budget for the next two years aims to complete the final phase of the school funding formula that began in 2021. While this budget includes a modest 1.9% increase in the first year and a 1.4% increase in the second, deeper concerns arise over the impact of House Bill 96, which significantly reduces state funding for traditional public schools like Fredericktown.

Mrs. Darnold, District Treasurer, expressed concerns about the financial strain these funding reductions will place on the district. Under this proposal, state funding guarantees for K-12 public schools would be cut by 5% on average in the 2025-26 school year and 10% in 2026-27. These reductions will leave districts with fewer resources, forcing difficult decisions on how to maintain the quality of education for our students. Schools may face larger class sizes, cuts to arts and enrichment programs, reductions in student support services, or an increased reliance on local taxpayers to fill the funding gaps. Unfortunately, Fredericktown Schools are projected to see a reduction of nearly \$620,000 in state aid each year beginning in 2027. If funds are lost, the District would need to take necessary actions to reduce spending, which will directly impact students, teachers, and families.

At the same time, state funding for voucher and charter school programs is set to increase significantly. House Bill 96 proposes \$2.4 billion for voucher programs, representing a 16.5% increase—an additional \$265.4 million over two years. Similarly, charter and private schools will receive an 11.7% funding boost, totaling \$2.7 billion, or an additional \$221.8 million. These increases reflect a growing push for taxpayer-funded EdChoice vouchers, which allow any Ohio family to participate, shifting resources away from the 90% of students who rely on public education.

This shift in funding priorities raises serious concerns about the long-term sustainability of public schools. As more funds are directed toward private and charter schools, public school districts may struggle to maintain essential programs and services. The loss of guaranteed state funding means that many districts will either need to make cuts or turn to local taxpayers for additional support, putting a greater financial burden on communities.



District	Enrolled FY25	\$ Change FY25-FY26	\$ Change FY26-FY27	% Change FY25-FY26	% Change FY26-FY27
Centerburg Local SD	1013	(\$295,442)	(\$302,481)	-4.82%	-5.19%
Danville Local SD	550	\$161,054	\$20,872	2.85%	0.36%
East Knox Local SD	909	(\$121,266)	(\$136,919)	-3.80%	-4.46%
Fredericktown Local SD	1127	(\$373,358)	(\$542,432)	-5.06%	-7.75%
Mount Vernon City SD	3413	(\$1,095,185)	(\$1,967,021)	-5.61%	-10.67%

Public education is the foundation of strong communities, and funding decisions like these have real consequences. With House Bill 96 prioritizing private and charter school funding over traditional public schools, it is more important than ever for parents, educators, and community members to stay informed and engaged. Our children deserve a well-funded, high-quality education that prepares them for the future, and we must work together to ensure that public schools remain strong for generations to come.

Kindergarten Registration!

Registration for Fredericktown Kindergarten Screening is OPEN!

Kindergarten Screening for the 2025-2026 school year will be at the Fredericktown Board of Education Office: Tuesday, April 29th and the morning of Wednesday, April 30th. During this time, parents/guardians will complete enrollment paperwork while students complete a kindergarten screening. The screening process should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Please contact Nicky Gaddis (Elementary Secretary) today at (740) 694-2781 to schedule your Kindergarten Screening appointment.

When:

Tuesday, April 29th
(all day) &
Wednesday April 30th
(morning only)

Where:

Fredericktown Board
of Education Office
117 Columbus Road
Fredericktown, Ohio



**Our Staff & Teachers
Look Forward To
Meeting You and Your
Child!**

2025-2026 Open Enrollment

Fredericktown Local Schools will accept tuition-free enrollment applications from students in grades K-12 across Ohio beginning at 8 A.M. on April 1 and continuing through 4:00 P.M. on May 15, 2025.

Applications are approved based on the order received, with priority given to earlier submissions. Enrollment limits depend on grade levels, school capacity, and program availability. Disciplinary history may be considered.

Students must resubmit each year to confirm their intent to return. For details and the application form, visit fredericktownschools.com or contact Sonya Overholt at soverholt@fredschools.com or 740-694-2956. Please visit our website at fredericktownschools.com or scan this QR code to print the Open Enrollment form, complete and return to Fredericktown Local Schools, Attention: Sonya Overholt, 117 Columbus Road, Fredericktown, Ohio 43019 or email soverholt@fredschools.com.

Scan this QR code for the 2025-2026 Open Enrollment form:



Join the Freddie Family!



Fredericktown Local School District

117 Columbus Road Fredericktown, OH 43019

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

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

Frederickton Local Schools

Board of Education:

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

OCCUPANT

Look Inside For...

- Mr. Chapman's Update
- Freddie Fan of the Year
- KMAC Champs!
- Kindergarten Registration & Open Enrollment



Website: www.fredericktownschools.com

Facebook: [@FredericktownLocalSchools](https://www.facebook.com/FredericktownLocalSchools)

Instagram: [@Fred_Local_Schools](https://www.instagram.com/Fred_Local_Schools)