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 2025
Volume LV, Number 1
Celebrating Fredericktown Since 1971

Mr. Chapman's Update

Dear Fredericktown School Community,

As we settle into another exciting fall at Fredericktown Local Schools, I want to take a moment to share some of the important work happening across our district. This season has been full of both tradition and forward progress—celebrating our students, cheering on our Freddies, investing in our facilities, and most importantly, preparing the next generation of Freddies for success in a changing world.

One of the most significant new opportunities for our students is in the field of manufacturing, a vital part of Knox County's economy. Nearly 25% of our county's workforce is employed in this industry, which continues to offer excellent career pathways.

To build on this strength, we are moving forward with a new engineering and manufacturing lab at Fredericktown High School, made possible through a Battelle grant. This space will serve as the foundation of an engineering and manufacturing pathway, giving students access to hands-on training, industry-recognized credentials, and the chance to see how classroom learning connects to real-world opportunities. To support this effort, our FHS teachers recently toured local manufacturing facilities, gaining valuable insight into modern practices they can bring back to their classrooms.

These efforts complement our outstanding academic course offerings and co-curricular programs such as PLTW, NHS, Bio Medical Science , FFA, Instrumental and Vocal Music, Drama, and various College Credit Plus offerings in Math and English—ensuring that every student, whether pursuing college, apprenticeships, or direct-to-work opportunities, is well-prepared for their future.

At the same time, we continue to invest in facilities that support safety and student success. The expansion of our bus garage is now complete, providing the space needed to properly maintain our fleet. We are deeply grateful to our bus drivers and transportation team, who work tirelessly to keep students safe while on the road each day.

On September 24, 2025, the Board of Education took an exciting first step toward improving our athletic facilities by approving a resolution to begin the bidding process for resurfacing the football field and track. In addition, the Board will also engage a criteria architect/engineer to help develop conceptual plans for a design-build project addressing potential Field House and Stadium improvements—considering accessibility upgrades, renovations, or new construction to ensure our facilities remain safe, functional, and welcoming.

As you can see, this is a busy and exciting time for Fredericktown Schools. Whether through innovative programs like the new engineering and manufacturing lab, important facility upgrades, or opportunities for students to build pride in being a Freddie, we remain focused on preparing our students not only for graduation, but for the bright futures that await them. Thank you for your continued support of our students and schools.

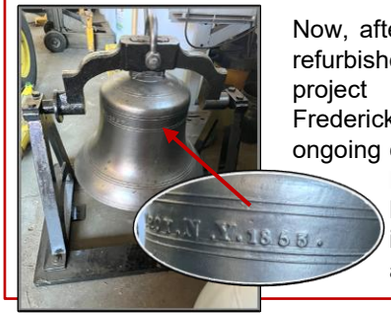
Go Freddies!

The Taylor Street School Bell Returns

For more than a century, the Taylor Street School stood as a cornerstone of education in Fredericktown. At its heart was a bell—cast in the mid-1800s—that rang proudly from the cupola of the original Taylor Street School Building. Soon, that historic bell will once again be on display, thanks to a careful rehabbing project that is restoring it to its former glory.

The story of the bell stretches back to the early 1850s, when the Fredericktown Union School District recognized the need for a larger, more modern school. In 1853, a two-story brick building was completed on a 2½-acre site in the Wookruff Addition on the west side of town. The structure, complete with four classrooms, two recitation rooms, and a central hall, was crowned by its distinctive cupola and bell.

For generations, that bell marked the rhythm of life in Fredericktown—calling children to their lessons and signaling the start of countless school days. Even after the original building was torn down in 1894 and replaced by a new Taylor Street School, the bell endured as a symbol of the community's dedication to education. The Taylor Street School remained a vital part of the district for more than 100 years, until its demolition in 2008. While the building itself is gone, the bell remains a lasting reminder of the generations of students who passed through its doors.



Now, after years in storage, the Taylor Street bell is being refurbished and will soon return for public display. This project not only preserves an important piece of Fredericktown's past but also honors the community's ongoing commitment to its schools and students. A special thanks goes to Jim Wagner and former Superintendent Dan Humphrey for preserving and sharing the history of the bell, and to our bus mechanic and jack-of-all-trades, Darien Kelly, for putting in the hands-on work to bring it back to life. The return of the bell is more than a nod to history—it is a bridge connecting the proud traditions of Fredericktown education with the future. As it takes its place once again, the Taylor Street bell will continue to symbolize the enduring spirit of learning in our community.

Building the Future: Fredericktown's New Manufacturing & Engineering Lab

Fredericktown Local Schools is making bold investments to ensure that students are ready for the rapidly evolving world of advanced manufacturing—and to keep homegrown talent right here in Knox County. The vision for this program began three years ago with the expansion of the district's K–12 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) program, laying the foundation for what is now becoming a reality.

With support from a Battelle manufacturing grant, Fredericktown High School is creating a new manufacturing lab that will strengthen opportunities across the entire K–12 STEAM pathway. This initiative is more than a facility upgrade—it is a community-wide commitment to preparing Freddies for real-world careers, industry-recognized credentials, and even early college credits.. The vision is clear: when students leave Fredericktown, they will do so not only with a diploma but also with skills and opportunities that connect directly to the workforce of tomorrow.

A Transformation from the Ground Up. The journey began last spring, when construction crews laid a durable, chemical-resistant epoxy floor in what will soon become the district's hub for engineering and advanced manufacturing. That foundation is symbolic—strong, resilient, and built to last. Soon, the lab will be filled with advanced tools and technology for automation, robotics, production control, and system troubleshooting.

As the lab takes shape, as does the opportunity for every grade level. From hands-on STEAM exploration in elementary school to specialized pathways in high school, the lab connects learning from kindergarten through graduation. Students will build confidence and curiosity early, then expand into technical expertise as they advance through the district.

Education That Mirrors Industry. Freddies enrolled in the new Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing pathway will have the opportunity to gain industry-level knowledge before they even leave high school. In partnership with Central Ohio Technical College, juniors will begin with essentials like safety, measurement tools, lean quality principles, and automation. Seniors will move into mechatronics, troubleshooting, and predictive maintenance—skills that local employers use every day. Courses such as Digital Electronics, Principles of Engineering, and Computer Science Principles will also translate into transferable college credits, giving students a valuable head start on higher education or immediate entry into the workforce.

Why Does Manufacturing Matter? Manufacturing isn't just another industry in Knox County—it's part of our community's identity, strength and workforce. 60.5% of our county's population is working, and 22% of those people are employed in manufacturing. While only 22% of Knox County residents hold a college degree (compared to 33% statewide), our community has long cracked the code on careers by connecting people with good-paying, skill-based jobs.

Our largest employers are in manufacturing—and they provide living-wage careers. Not only does manufacturing employ the most people, but it also pays the most, strengthening families and fueling our economy.

Manufacturing is not just our past—it is also our future. With the median salary at $70,000, starting wages around $18 per hour, and many employers offering on-the-job training to anyone with a good attitude and curiosity to learn, the opportunities are abundant.

Connected to the Culture Blueprint. This project is deeply tied to Fredericktown's Culture Blueprint, which emphasizes responsibility, growth, and community. The new manufacturing lab brings these values to life.

- Responsibility: Students will be held to industry standards, follow workplace safety protocols, and practice professional habits that prepare them for success
- Growth: Hands-on experiences with cutting-edge tools and real-world problem solving will challenge students to think critically, innovate, and adapt to change
- Community: Partnerships with local employers will connect Freddies to mentors, internships, and career opportunities right here in Knox County.

The lab is more than a new facility—it's an investment in who we are as a district and who we want our students to become responsible, capable, and connected to their community.

A Shared Investment in the Future. This manufacturing lab is the result of grant funding strong partnerships, and a shared belief in the potential of Fredericktown students. Local businesses, families, and community members have all played a role in supporting this vison As the new lab comes online, the district is excited to see the impact rippling across classrooms, families, and the entire community. This is more than a new space for learning—it is a launchpad for the next generation of innovators, problem-solvers, and leaders.

Fredericktown Schools extends a huge thank you to Divelbiss, Schafer Driveline, FT Precision and Kokosing for opening their doors and welcoming our high school teachers to tour their manufacturing facilities

This opportunity, hosted by the Knox Area Development Foundation, helps connect classroom learning to real-world careers—showing just how many pathways are available to our students right here in Knox County.

With the Taylor Street bell reminding us of our proud past and the new manufacturing lab pointing toward an even brighter future, Fredericktown Schools stands as a community grounded in tradition but firmly focused on tomorrow. We're excited to keep inspiring the next generation of Freddies to explore future careers in this growing and vital field.

Knox County Schools Emergency Reunification

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.

Starting last 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 Reunification Scenarios:

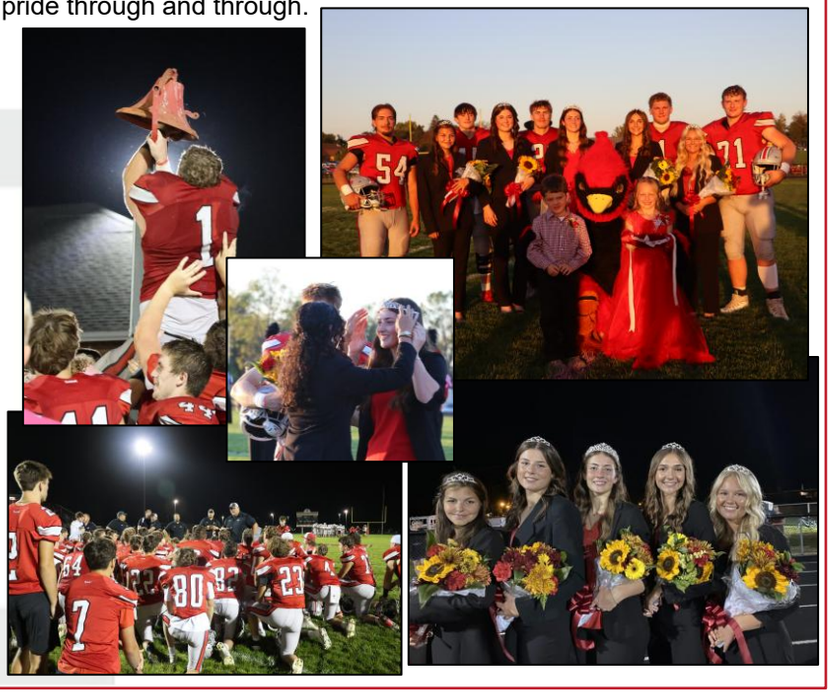
- School Emergencies
- Natural disasters

Homecoming 2025!

It was a night full of pride, excitement, and tradition as Mya Bryant was crowned Fredericktown's 2025 Homecoming Queen! She was surrounded by her court: Shae Amstutz, Charley Beheler, Kit Bellman, and Ella Bouton, as the crowning set the perfect stage for what would become an unforgettable night for the Freddies.

On the field, the Freddies battled past a tough Loudonville team in a nail-biting overtime finish, pulling out a 26–20 victory. Despite three fumbles, the Freddies stayed composed and determined—ultimately securing the win and remaining undefeated this season.

The stands were filled with energy, community spirit, and celebration as the Freddies delivered both a Homecoming Queen and a Homecoming victory to remember. It was a perfect reflection of what makes Fredericktown special—heart, perseverance, and Freddie pride through and through.



Frederickton Stadium Improvements

During the September 24, 2025, Board of Education meeting, the Board approved a resolution to move forward with much-needed improvements to the track and football field.

Track and Field Upgrades. Plans are underway to mill down the existing track surface and replace it with a modern polyurethane surface. Unlike traditional latex tracks, polyurethane surfaces maintain their texture over time, resist cracking, and deliver lasting performance benefits for athletes.

The football field will also see major improvements, including new sod to preserve a natural playing surface and the installation of a modern irrigation system to keep the turf in top condition. In addition, spectator access will be enhanced with improved and expanded walkways, and a new perimeter fence will be installed to increase safety and further enhance the overall facility.

Impact on the Track Season. While these updates are necessary to maintain safe, high-quality facilities for our student-athletes and the broader community, the timing of construction will likely affect the upcoming spring track season. At this time, it appears that Fredericktown will not be able to host home track meets next spring. However, the district is optimistic that the track will remain available for practice during the season.

Field House & Stadium Improvement Planning Next Steps. The Board will be seeking a criteria architect/engineer through a request for qualifications process. The criteria architect/engineer will develop the conceptual plans and specifications to assist the District in establishing a design criteria for a design-build project. The criteria architect/engineer will be evaluating accessibility upgrades, renovations, or the possibility of new construction. This is an important first step the District will take to ensure our facilities remain safe, functional, and inviting to our community.

We are in the early stages of improvements. These projects are a major step forward in supporting our athletes and preserving facilities that serve as a point of pride for Fredericktown. We look forward to involving the community as plans progress to ensure our facilities are safe, modern, and welcoming places for all Fredericktown Freddies!

Bus Garage Expansion Completed

The Fredericktown Local Schools bus garage expansion project is now complete, marking a major step forward in meeting the district's growing transportation needs. The garage previously had only one maintenance bay—an arrangement that was no longer sufficient for the district's fleet. With the recent expansion, approximately 945 square feet was added to the west side of the garage, creating a second maintenance bay and enlarging the workspace.

In addition to the expansion, the project included roofing repairs, heating and electrical upgrades, and other needed improvements to ensure the facility is safe, efficient, and reliable for years to come. This investment ensures Fredericktown can properly maintain its buses and continue providing safe, dependable transportation for students.

A big **thank you** goes out to all of our bus drivers and our bus mechanic for the vital role they play in keeping our kids safe on the road every day!

Fredericktown Local School District

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Look Inside For…

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