

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 2026

Volume LV, Number 3

Celebrating Fredericktown Since 1971

Mr. Chapman's Update

Dear Fredericktown School Community,

At Fredericktown Local Schools, we believe education should do more than prepare students for the next test—it should prepare them for the next chapter of their lives. That belief is reflected in the expanding opportunities available across our district. Through hands-on learning experiences led by outstanding teachers and grounded in strong core academics, students have access to Advanced Placement, College Credit Plus, Life Skills, middle school exposure to biomedical sciences, engineering, computer science, Spanish, and agricultural education, as well as an Elementary STEAM classroom available to every K–5 student. Co-curricular programs including instrumental and vocal music and drama further support the student experience.

These opportunities allow students to explore interests early, build valuable skills, and see a clear connection between their education and their future. We are proud to strengthen the foundation of our schools while building new traditions and opportunities for the next generation of Freddie's. Whether students pursue engineering, healthcare, agriculture, or high-skill manufacturing careers, Fredericktown provides meaningful pathways to begin that journey.

As we look ahead, Kindergarten Registration and Open Enrollment will be starting soon. If you have a child ready to begin their educational journey, we invite you to explore what it means to start that journey as a Freddie. If you live outside of our district boundaries, we want you to know that you can still be part of the Freddie family. Through Ohio's open enrollment process, families have the opportunity to choose Fredericktown Schools, regardless of where they reside.

Choosing a school is one of the most important decisions a family makes. We are proud of the academic excellence, innovative programming, and supportive environment we provide. We encourage you to visit our website, connect with our schools, and learn more about the opportunities waiting here.

Here at Fredericktown, we are building futures for the next generation. **Go Freddie's!**



Exciting Progress at the Stadium

If you've driven by the Fredericktown stadium recently, you've likely noticed the exciting progress taking place as work continues on the Track and Field Upgrades project. Crews have been busy completing the installation of curbs and drainage systems, an important step that prepares the site for the next phases of construction.

With track season already underway, it's been great to see our athletes back on the grounds and practicing while improvements move forward. Although construction will limit some use of the facility this spring, we're pleased that our teams are still able to train on site as work continues.

In the coming weeks, the existing track surface will be milled and replaced with a new polyurethane track designed for durability and long-term performance. The football field will also undergo significant improvements, including reshaping the field, installing irrigation, and laying new bluegrass sod. Wider walkways and a new perimeter fence will also be added to enhance safety and accessibility for athletes and spectators.

Planning is also moving ahead for the future of the stadium fieldhouse. The district is exploring options for renovating the current facility or potentially replacing it to better serve our athletes, teams, and the broader community.

The Track and Football Field Renovation Project is being overseen by D&K Hathaway, with Triad Architects serving as the Criteria Architect for the Athletic Stadium and Fieldhouse renovations.

We're excited to watch these improvements take shape and look forward to the day when the community can gather once again at an upgraded stadium to cheer on the Freddie's!



The Future of AI in Schools

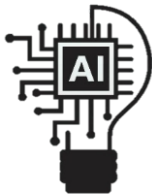
The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has released a comprehensive model Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy, making Ohio one of the first states to require school districts to adopt guidelines for AI use in education.

As AI tools become more common in classrooms, schools must address key issues such as protecting student data privacy, preventing misinformation and bias, and promoting critical thinking and responsible use. Clear expectations help ensure AI enhances learning while safeguarding students and staff.

Fredericktown Local Schools has been proactive in preparing for this shift. Over the past year, teachers and staff have participated in ongoing professional development focused on artificial intelligence, its instructional impact, and responsible classroom use. During the January Professional Development Day, grades 6–12 educators engaged in deeper learning around

AI applications, explored practical tools, and discussed classroom best practices to support student learning in an evolving digital landscape.

The Board of Education will hold the first reading of the district's proposed AI policy at the March meeting. Any adopted policy will align with all state and federal data privacy laws, ensuring strong protections for student and staff information while responsibly embracing innovation.



Are You Ready to be a Freddie?! Open Enrollment at Fredericktown Starts April 1

If you're searching for a school district where students are empowered to seize advanced opportunities, Fredericktown Local Schools are your gateway to a future filled with possibility. Here, academic excellence and innovative STEAM programming aren't just features—they're the foundation for lifelong success.

From the first day in kindergarten, students are immersed in hands-on learning, creative problem-solving, and real-world exploration that unlocks their potential and prepares them to thrive in a rapidly changing world. At Fredericktown, opportunity starts early and grows with every step.

We provide advanced Engineering, state of the art Biomedical, and a state-of-the-art Manufacturing and Engineering Lab aligned to local workforce needs, by graduation, students can earn industry-ready credentials, meaning you could be prepared to step directly into a high-demand career, with the skills and certifications employers are seeking. For some, this even means graduating next year with a job offer already waiting. Our programs are designed to connect you with local industries, provide real-world experience, and ensure you're not just graduating, you're graduating ready for college, careers, and beyond with confidence and skill.



Join the Freddie Family!

We 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, 2026. 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.

Visit our website at fredericktownschools.com or scan the QR code for the Open Enrollment form, Complete and return to Fredericktown Local Schools, Attention: Sonya Overholt, 117 Columbus Road, Fredericktown, Ohio 43019

Scan this QR code for the 2026-2027 Open Enrollment form:



From Classroom to Career: Our New Manufacturing & Engineering Lab

Knox County has always been defined by craftsmanship and ingenuity - and Fredericktown High School is proud to carry that legacy forward through our new Manufacturing & Engineering Lab.

Designed to connect students directly to local workforce opportunities, this state-of-the-art lab gives students hands-on experience with modern manufacturing equipment, engineering processes, and industry practices. Students don't just learn about manufacturing, they practice it.

Through partnerships with local area industry leaders, students gain exposure to real equipment, real standards, and real expectations. They explore machining, fabrication, design processes, and problem-solving techniques that mirror today's workforce demands.

This program was created with a clear purpose: to prepare students for high-skill, high-wage careers right here in Knox County and beyond. Whether students plan to enter the workforce directly after graduation, pursue technical certifications, or continue into engineering programs at the collegiate level, the foundation begins here.

The lab represents more than new equipment. It represents an opportunity for students to discover talents they didn't know they had, to see a pathway from school to career, and to learn that meaningful careers exist close to home.

Families interested in career-connected learning are encouraged to explore open enrollment options. Access to innovative, workforce-aligned programming is available to students across the region.

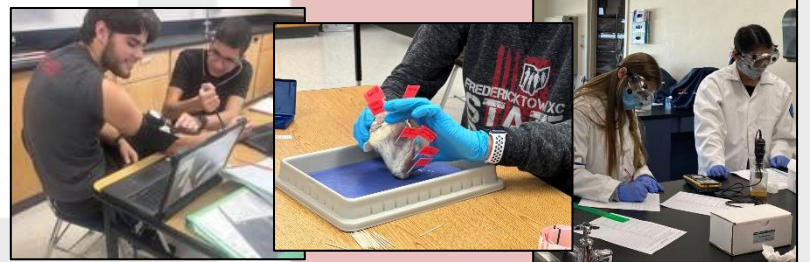


At Fredericktown, we are not just educating students — we are equipping the next generation who will shape our local economy for years to come.

Exploring Medicine Before College: Project Lead The Way Biomedical Science

What if students didn't have to wait until college to explore a career in medicine? Fredericktown's Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Biomedical Science program allows students to step into the world of healthcare while still in high school. Through rigorous, hands-on coursework, students investigate real medical cases, analyze patient symptoms, explore disease prevention, and even simulate medical procedures.

This is not a traditional lecture-based science class. Students work through interactive case studies, examine DNA evidence, study human body systems, and apply critical thinking to diagnose medical conditions. Along the way, they develop skills in research, data analysis, and collaboration, all essential in today's healthcare landscape.



For students interested in becoming physicians, nurses, physical therapists, researchers, or other healthcare professionals, PLTW Biomedical Science offers a head start. It helps students determine if the medical field is truly their calling and helps prepares them for the academic rigor that comes with it.

Beyond technical knowledge, the program emphasizes empathy, ethical decision-making, and communication. Students learn that medicine is not just about science, it's about serving people.

Families considering their educational options should know that access to programs like this is available through open enrollment at Fredericktown Schools. Students from outside the district can join a learning environment that encourages exploration, hands-on discovery, and early career preparation.


At Fredericktown, we believe tomorrow's healthcare leaders are sitting in today's classrooms.

Building the Future: PLTW Engineering at Fredericktown

Innovation doesn't start in a boardroom. It starts in a classroom.

At Fredericktown, our Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Engineering program gives students the opportunity to step into the role of designer, problem solver, and creator long before they graduate. Through hands-on coursework and real-world challenges, students learn to think like engineers, analyzing problems, testing solutions, collaborating in teams, and using industry-grade technology.

From computer-aided design (CAD) and robotics to civil engineering concepts and prototype development, PLTW Engineering challenges students to apply math and science in meaningful ways. Instead of simply learning formulas, students use them. Instead of reading about design, they build it.



That learning doesn't stay inside the classroom walls, students in our Intro to Engineering Design course were tasked with designing a community fireplace and patio space for downtown Fredericktown. They developed multiple concepts, created detailed 3D models, and even constructed a mockup of the town square on the classroom floor to visualize how the space would function. Their ideas were combined into a final design that design came to life over the summer and fall. That fireplace stands as a lasting example of what happens when classroom innovation meets community partnership.

Even more importantly, the program builds confidence. Students learn to present ideas, defend their reasoning, revise their work, and collaborate effectively — skills that serve them well in any career field.



Families outside the Fredericktown district are encouraged to explore what this opportunity could mean for their student. Through Ohio's open enrollment process, students can choose to attend Fredericktown Local Schools and take part in our innovative programs.

At Fredericktown, we aren't just teaching students about the future. We're helping them design it.

Honoring Tradition. Leading the Future: Fredericktown FFA

Few programs carry the legacy and leadership tradition of FFA.

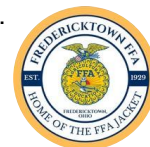
At Fredericktown Schools, our FFA chapter proudly honors that history while preparing students for the evolving world of 21st-century agriculture. Agriculture today is about far more than farming; it's about engineering, science, sustainability, manufacturing, business, and technology.

Through agricultural education courses and FFA leadership opportunities, students gain hands-on experience in plant science, animal science, agribusiness, environmental systems, and emerging agricultural technologies. They compete, collaborate, and lead; developing confidence that extends far beyond the classroom.

FFA teaches public speaking. It builds responsibility. It fosters entrepreneurship. It connects students to mentors and industry professionals. And perhaps most importantly, it instills pride in the role agriculture plays in our community and economy.

Fredericktown's program reflects both our community's deep agricultural roots and our forward-thinking approach to education. Students explore precision agriculture tools, sustainability practices, and agriscience innovations that define modern food production and environmental stewardship.

For families seeking a program that combines tradition with cutting-edge learning, Fredericktown's FFA and agricultural education pathway offers a unique opportunity to become part of a program that builds leaders, innovators, and lifelong learners.



At Fredericktown, we honor where we've come from — and prepare students for where agriculture is going.

Registration for Fredericktown Kindergarten Screening is OPEN

Fredericktown Local Schools is excited to announce that Kindergarten Screening registration for the 2026–2027 school year is now open! We look forward to welcoming our newest Freddie's and partnering with families as their educational journey begins.

When:
Wednesday, April 22nd
8:40 AM – 3:20 PM

Where:
Fredericktown Board of Education Office
117 Columbus Road, Fredericktown, Ohio

We can't wait to welcome the Class of 2039!

To schedule your child's Kindergarten Screening, please contact Brittany Berry, Elementary Secretary, at (740) 694-2781.

During your scheduled appointment, parents/guardians will complete enrollment paperwork while students participate in a kindergarten screening. The screening process takes approximately 20 minutes and helps our staff get to know your child while ensuring a smooth and successful start to the school year.

At Fredericktown, innovation starts early. Our commitment to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) education begins in Kindergarten. Even our youngest learners engage in hands-on exploration, creative problem-solving, foundational coding activities, collaborative projects, and interactive learning experiences that spark curiosity and build confidence. These early experiences lay the groundwork for the advanced opportunities as they progress. We believe strong foundations create limitless futures, and it all begins in Kindergarten. If your child is ready to start their Freddie journey, we invite you to schedule your screening today.





Fredericktown Local School District

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Look Inside For...

- Mr. Chapman's Update
- Kindergarten Registration & Open Enrollment
- The Future of AI in Schools
- Stadium Updates!



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