

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 2026

Volume LVI, Number 1

Celebrating Fredericktown Since 1971

Mr. Chapman's Update

Dear Fredericktown School Community,

Inside our school and classrooms, exciting opportunities are unfolding every day. Through our core academic offerings, expanding K-5 STEAM program, Manufacturing & Engineering Lab, Project Lead The Way, new welding program, and dynamic co-curricular activities, students are exploring, creating, and acquiring practical, hands-on skills for their futures. We continue to emphasize to our students that showing up matters-daily attendance builds the foundational habits of reliability, responsibility, and commitment that lead to lifelong success. Above all, whenever a student or family needs extra support, we are here to help every step of the way.

That same spirit of connection extends throughout our entire school community. From our traditions like Homecoming and the Tomato Show to the steady engagement of our local business partners, our community continuously unites across generations to support our Freddie. That support is also on full display as our students, athletes, and fans gather at a revitalized Freddie Stadium. Featuring a new track, updated playing surface, perimeter fencing, digital scoreboard, and the restored Victory Bell, the stadium stands as a proud symbol of our shared traditions and community investment.

Whether through innovative classroom experiences, rich community traditions, upgraded facilities, or everyday personal support, one constant remains: Fredericktown comes together. Thank you to our students, families, staff, alumni, and community partners for your ongoing support. We have so much to celebrate and an even brighter future ahead. With over a month of school already behind us, let's keep this momentum going for a fantastic year! Go Freddie!



You're Invited: Veterans Day 2026

Fredericktown Schools invites our community to come together this Veterans Day as we honor the men and women who have served our country. We especially invite the veterans who are part of our Freddie family, our parents, grandparents, alumni, staff members, neighbors, and friends, to please join us.



- Wednesday, November 11
- Fredericktown High School



Our students have an opportunity to learn from those who have experienced military service firsthand, ask questions, listen to stories, and better understand the meaning behind the words:

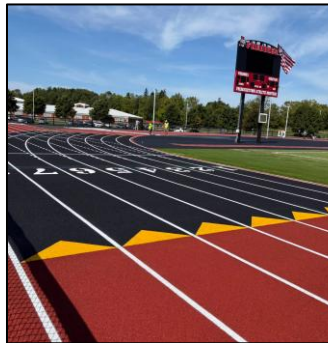
"Thank you for your service."

A New Chapter for Freddie Stadium

We welcomed the community to Fredericktown's stadium to meet the team and see the exciting updates! One of the most visible additions is the massive digital stadium scoreboard, officially christened the Freddie-Tron. The new scoreboard will enhance the game-day experience for our athletes, families, and fans while providing much more than just game scores. Its digital capabilities will allow the district to share messages, announcements, and information with fans throughout events. We are excited to see the Freddie-Tron come to life and look forward to showcasing it throughout the school year.

The stadium project includes a refurbished playing surface, a new track, perimeter fencing, and the new scoreboard. The track features a red surface with black exchange zones, while the football field features Kentucky bluegrass. The new track surface provides an important upgrade for our athletes after years of competing on an aging surface. Fans will also notice changes designed to make the facility easier to navigate and create a better experience for everyone. A new fence surrounds the track and football playing area, creating a more defined space for athletes and spectators. Most importantly, we are excited to have a stadium that reflects the pride our community has in its students and athletes.

A Note About Parking: With the stadium improvements, there will be some changes to parking and traffic patterns around the athletic facilities. Families and visitors are encouraged to pay close attention to signage and designated parking areas when attending events. We appreciate everyone's cooperation as we work to keep traffic moving safely and provide the best possible experience for everyone. We know that changes to a familiar routine can take some getting used to, and we appreciate everyone's patience as we settle into our improved facility.



Welding Sparks Learning

What happens when you give a student the opportunity to build something with their own hands? You create confidence. You develop problem-solving skills. You open a door to a career they may never have considered. That is the idea behind Fredericktown Local Schools' expanding K–12 STEAM and career-readiness opportunities.

Fredericktown High School is expanding its Agriscience pathway to include welding instruction and industry-recognized certifications. The district recently received a \$23,000 grant from the Knox County Foundation, along with generous community support, including \$13,500 from Greg and Kelly Rinehart and \$15,000 from the Dean & Marsha Rinehart Family Fund. These contributions will help establish a three-booth welding lab, providing students with hands-on experience and technical training.

The new opportunity is part of a larger effort to equip students with valuable, career-ready skills and prepare them for success in the workforce. Students will learn safety systems and fundamental welding skills, allowing students to work toward OSHA-10 and Lincoln Electric/NC3 industry-recognized credentials.

Local industry partners, UMD Automated Systems and Kokosing Construction Company, have committed to supporting the program. The companies will provide materials, facility tours, job-shadowing, guest speakers and curriculum guidance.



STEAM Starts Early. The exciting part is that students don't have to wait until high school to begin exploring these ideas. Fredericktown's STEAM pathway begins with our youngest Freddie's and grows with them.

Elementary students are learning through hands-on design and building activities. Middle school students are beginning to think like engineers by identifying problems, designing solutions, creating prototypes, and refining their ideas. High school students can then take those skills into increasingly specialized and technical experiences and leave with a certification and potential job offer. This is what a true K–12 pathway looks like: curiosity first, exploration next, and technical expertise as students grow.



Congratulations, Project Lead The Way! We are also proud to recognize our Project Lead The Way program for receiving Distinguished Program Recognition for the 2025–2026 school year. This recognition reflects the dedication of our teachers and students and the district's continued commitment to meaningful STEM and career-connected learning.

We're not just preparing students for the future. We're giving them the opportunity to start building it now.

Freddie's Take on the Tomato Show

The Fredericktown Tomato Show is one of those traditions that reminds us just how special our community really is, and our Freddie's were proud to be part of it once again this year!

The Fredericktown Marching Scarlet and Grey were able to perform at the beginning of the celebration, but unfortunately, rain moved into the area and prevented the students from marching in the parade. We are incredibly proud of our students for being ready to represent Fredericktown and for bringing their music and Freddie spirit to the opening of the show.



Teachers Take the Plunge! A huge thank you to our Fredericktown teachers and staff who participated in the bathtub races! It takes a special kind of Freddie to willingly climb into a bathtub on wheels, filled with juice and race down Main Street, and our teachers once again proved they are willing to have a little fun for the community! And they didn't just show up,

congratulations to Derek Dibling, Matt Moore & Xavier Stallard, our Freddie Basketball Coaches for racing their way to 1st Place!

Learning Can Look Like a Tomato! The Tomato Show also provided some wonderful learning opportunities for our youngest Freddie's who put their creativity to work by designing and creating their own tomato creatures. And getting to showcase them right in the middle of one of our favorite traditions!



Homecoming 2026!

There is something special about Homecoming at Fredericktown!

It is a week filled with school spirit, traditions, friendly competition, memories, and plenty of opportunities to show what it means to be a Freddie. This year's Homecoming Court represents a wonderful group of students who have been selected by their classmates to be part of one of Fredericktown High School's most celebrated traditions.



Congratulations to our 2026 Homecoming Court, and the 2026 Homecoming Queen **Madison Hoeflich!**

Jenelle Doup, Madison Hoeflich, Zoey Horlacher, Halie Mull, and Abbey Wittman

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.

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 the 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

A Connection When You Need It

Growing up isn't always easy. Students can face challenges at school, at home, with friends, or simply in navigating the many changes that come with growing up. Families can also encounter situations where they aren't sure where to turn for help.

That's where our school social work support can make a difference.

Our social work support can help students and families:

- Navigate difficult personal or family circumstances
- Connect with community resources
- Work through social or emotional challenges
- Problem-solve conflicts
- Identify additional services and supports
- Build connections between school, home, and community resources

The goal isn't to wait until a situation becomes a crisis. Sometimes the most important step is simply having someone to talk to and knowing where to start.

Need Help or Have a Question? Families who would like to connect with our social work services can contact:

Hannah Art - K-12 Social Worker
hart@fredschools.com

Cindy Truex - Middle/HS Social Worker
ctrux@fredschools.com
Office Phone: (740) 694-2726

Please don't hesitate to reach out. Asking for help is not a sign that something is wrong, it is a sign that you care enough to look for a solution. At Fredericktown, we believe our students are more than grades and test scores. We care about the whole Freddie.

Victory Bell Restoration

Some traditions are worth preserving, and sometimes, they deserve a new beginning. The Victory Bell has long been a part of the tradition at Freddie Stadium, ringing it in celebration of victories. Now, a beautiful new bell has been added to help carry that tradition forward for generations of Freddie's to come.

And this bell has a special connection to our community: it was made right here in Fredericktown! The story began when Dan and Deb Hathaway discovered the bell through Aimen Yoder of Waterford, who collects bells and had two beautiful brass bells that had never been installed. Dan and Deb purchased one of the bells and generously donated it to Fredericktown Local Schools, giving it a new purpose as our Victory Bell. Today, the bell has a permanent home at Freddie Stadium on a beautiful brick platform.

But the bell is about more than what happens after a win. Its story is also a wonderful example of what can happen when members of our community come together.



A Bell That Tells a Story. Every time the Victory Bell rings, it will celebrate more than a score. It will remind us of the history and traditions that connect generations of Fredericktown students and families. You're hearing the sound of Freddie pride, and a whole community coming together.



It Takes a Community: We extend our heartfelt THANK YOU to the local families and businesses whose generosity, craftsmanship, time, and labor made this project possible:



- Dan & Deb Hathaway
- Cole & Linn Bebout, Bebout Masonry
- Jason & Larry Streby, Valley Electrical

Showing Up Matters: Attendance Builds More than Academic Success

Fredericktown Schools is proud to be part of a countywide partnership with the Knox County Business Advisory Council reminding students and families of something simple but incredibly important: **Showing up matters.**

Why does attendance matter? Because showing up to school helps students build habits that will follow them long after graduation, reliability, accountability, responsibility, and commitment. Those are exactly the qualities employers say they want in their future employees.

The connection between school and the workforce is particularly important as Fredericktown continues expanding career-connected learning opportunities. Through partnerships with Knox County OhioMeansJobs and local employers, students can see that the habits they develop in the classroom today can directly affect opportunities available to them tomorrow.

**Freddie's, please remember:
Be there. Be ready. Be dependable.**





Fredericktown Local School District

117 Columbus Road Fredericktown, OH 43019

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

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Look Inside For...

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