



Freedom Middle School

in the middle

December 2022



Hello and welcome to the fourth edition of the “*In the Middle*” monthly newsletter. Enjoy reading about all of the great things happening here at Freedom Middle School!

GO IRISH!!!!

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Important Dates:

Saturday, Dec. 3	Freedom Christmas Parade
Monday, Dec. 5	Choir concert 7:00pm
Wednesday, Dec. 7	Parent/Teacher conferences 4:00pm - 6:00pm
Monday, Dec. 12	No school; staff inservice
Tuesday, Dec. 13	MAPSS meeting 5:00pm
Wednesday, Dec. 14	Pentemester 2 ends
Thursday, Dec. 15	Pentemester 3 begins
Monday, Dec. 19	Band concert 5:30pm; school board meeting 6:30pm
Friday, Dec. 23	Early dismissal 12:30pm; pm staff inservice
Monday, Dec. 26 - Friday, Dec. 30	No school 

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Important Reminders:

- ★ Masking is optional when riding the bus.
- ★ Masking is optional while in school.
- ★ School starting time is 8:00am. Ending time is 3:21pm. Students should be in their 1st hour class no later than 7:55am.
- ★ Turn in all appointment notes to the office. This will help in regards to the 5 and 10 allowable absences from the state.
- ★ Early release time is 12:30.

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Dr. Methner

Hello FMS Parents and Guardians!

You may have noticed the new signage on the northwest corner of our school. We are so happy to have installed clear signage marking the middle school and main entrance! The process included working with a design firm and then presenting to the administrative team and school board for approval. Parents who are new to the district should note that we maintained a continuity of design with our elementary school. Visitors have often noted that the middle school portion of our shared building was difficult to find, and this new signage should help considerably. Most importantly, we are PROUD OF OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL and want people to know it!

Regardless of your student's GPA, Wisconsin Forward test score, or our local screener Fastbridge, all students need extra help from time to time. Irish Hour provides that structure and adds a time for enrichment in fun, engaging activities. I am proud of our staff who have jumped into Irish Hour with both feet!

If you aren't already doing so, please take a look at our Homework Hotline. This is a great resource that is updated daily on our school website.

The Homework Hotline will indicate upcoming assessments as well as daily homework, and is a great way to engage in academic conversation with your student. Here's a link to the page:

[Freedom Area School District - Homework Hotline](#)

To our students and staff: I continue to be impressed with your dedication to learning and school spirit. You are what makes Freedom Middle School a great place to be!

I encourage parents and guardians to reach out to me or to teachers with any questions or concerns. I can be reached via email at gmethner@freedomschools.k12.wi.us, or by phone at 920-788-7945 ext. 2309.



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Counselor's Corner - Mr. Jason Bins

Greetings Freedom Middle School Stakeholders and where did the first month of school go? Although fast, our 2022-23 school year is off to a great start. Thank you for your support and guidance thus far and as we move forward!

The middle school counseling department is working on a number of items in October to support our students and families.

First is our yearly school, peer, and self safety presentation. In this we talk about how to support each other and overall school safety. Included within this presentation is a review of the See Something, Say Something (our district's school safety reporting platform) and the Speak Up - Speak Out platform created by the Wisconsin Department of Justice. These are both great tools to report potential safety issues and to keep our schools and students safe!

We are also continuing work on rapport building with our students, but adding an emphasis on family communication and building relationships with families to support the students at FMS.

With this said, I encourage you to let me know if there are "things" going on at home which may impact your students' day at school. This could be as simple as sending me an email that says "HANDLE WITH CARE - STUDENT NAME." This will alert me that

will not be followed with questions. Just a communication of receipt and an email to your child's teachers to provide extra grace to your student. Teachers/staff have been trained to not follow up with questions to your child, but just to provide the extra grace and understanding.

Your communication could also be more detailed with pertinent information to support your child's day at Freedom Middle School. As always, this information is protected by counselor confidentiality ethics (voided by potential or current physical harm to parties involved) and legitimate educational interest law.

As I often tell students, my entire role at FMS is to support the social/emotional wellbeing of the students of FMS. Please let me know how I can support your students as they continue their path into adulthood through Freedom Middle School!

Thank you for your support of Freedom Middle School and its students and staff! Please let me know what I can do to help your student. I can

be reached at (920) 788-7945 (x2288) or via email at jbins@freedomschools.k12.wi.us.

Water the Bamboo! -JB



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A New Staff Member Introduction

Greetings Freedom!

My name is Alesha Dobbe, and I am the new 6th-9th grade math interventionist and instructional coach at Freedom Area School District. I wanted to take a minute to introduce myself and explain my new role in the district! I am originally from Antigo, WI but now reside in Clintonville with my husband, Chad, and our three small children, Macgregor (3.5), Callahan (2), and Lucille (1). I have two older siblings, a brother Walker Flannery (orthopedic surgeon at OSMS DePere) and sister Stacey Conratt (6th grade English teacher Clintonville), and one younger brother Ivan Flannery (self-employed forrester Antigo). My parents still reside in Antigo and my mother is a retired 5th grade teacher and my father is the owner of Flannery & Flannery Logging and Flannery Bros. Trucking. I enjoy spending time with my family outdoors, athletics and sports of all kinds, and reading all the fictional stories I can! The two strongest passions in my life are family and education.



I am a 2013 graduate from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh where I studied Secondary Education-Mathematics. I am coming up on my tenth year teaching math! Time truly has flown by since my student teaching days at Appleton North & Appleton East High Schools as well as Maplewood Middle School in Menasha. Lakeland Union High School hired me for my first full time math teaching position teaching Algebra and providing math interventions for freshmen. I taught summer school in Lac du Flambeau for the middle school ages before taking a new position at Clintonville High School for the 2014-2015 school year. I continued my education through UW-Madison in 2016 and completed a masters degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. It was in Madison that I earned my principal and curriculum and instruction licensures and decided to begin exploring roles that influence math education beyond the classroom.

During my 8 years teaching Algebra, Geometry and Algebra 2 at CHS, I designed and implemented various math interventions and enhancement courses. I have a passion for educating young minds, and specifically, helping students learn to love and understand math. I am coming to Freedom Area School District with a deep understanding of the progression of math concepts, and a plethora of experience trying instructional strategies to make math easier for students to comprehend. My goal for my time at FASD is to assist students in their math education journeys; whether that be by providing intervention services to bridge learning gaps, or enrichment opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of math concepts and develop problem solving and higher level thinking skills. I want to be a resource for math instructional staff, students and families, to ensure academic success in Freedom.

I will be providing math services for all students grades 6-9 during study halls and Irish Hour. My classroom is located in the old computer lab off of the library in the 8th grade wing, Rm 142. I encourage anyone interested in learning more about my mission for my role at FASD to reach out to me via email at adobbe@freedomschools.k12.wi.us. I am excited to work with the wonderful students, guardians, and faculty here at FASD! Go Irish! Alesha Dobbe

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News from Sixth Grade

In 6th Grade Social Studies, we have been learning about the Sumerian civilization which rose to power in Mesopotamia (The land between the rivers). The Sumerians were known to have invented the wheel and the plow, they made bronze tools and weapons, and they used a number system based on 60. We also learned about other cultures that controlled Mesopotamia through the years, such as the Hittites, Assyrians, Chaldeans, and Persians. Each culture developed new innovations in the areas of irrigation and architecture, art, road building, ship building, and the creation of new laws as revealed in Hammurabi's Code. The Phoenicians were credited for spreading the idea of using an alphabet, which has had a great impact on our culture today.

Sixth Graders participated in Veteran's Day activities in November.



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7th grade

In seventh grade ELA, students will be working on finishing our class novel: *The Watsons Go to Birmingham: 1963*. In addition, we will continue grammar work with *Patterns of Power* along with weekly word work. Students will do the December Book Project upon return from the holiday break.

Quarter 2 science focuses on physical science. We will be taking a look at kinetic energy and different potential energies as well as how energy transfers from one object to another and from one type of energy to another.

Students in 7th grade math recently completed unit 1 on proportional relationships. We wrapped up the unit with an escape room allowing students to apply some of their recently acquired skills to help them escape. We now are entering unit 2 which is focused on rational numbers. We are currently working on integers. The students seem to have a really good understanding of real world situations that involve positive and negative numbers. I think we can attribute this knowledge to all of our cold winters in Wisconsin.



Last month in social studies, students worked on making Veteran's Day cards for local veterans as well as those in our state veteran's home in King, Wisconsin. Much of December in social studies will be devoted to working on students' chosen NHD topic.

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8th grade

Throughout the first semester of Math 8, we have been and will continue to learn about Geometry topics. Students started the year with a Geometry Readiness Unit that prepared them for the geometry units to come. The Geometry lessons are from the second half of our book so we started with Chapter Five. In Chapter Five we learned all about lines, angles, and triangles. In this chapter, Math 8 students learned that the three angles of a triangle add up to 180 degrees. They also learned to use the Pythagorean Theorem to find a missing side length of a right triangle. In Chapter Six, students learned all about Transformations in the coordinate plane. We learned to slide, flip, and rotate different shapes around the coordinate plane. Students used their skills to create their own logo using transformations. Finally, we learned about congruent and similar figures in Chapter 7. Congruent figures are the same shape and size while similar figures have the same shape, but a different size.

It has been a busy start of the year for 8th grade Algebra students. We've already learned and assessed four chapters! In Chapter One, we talked about expressions, the order of operations, the distributive property, and functions. Chapter Two was all about solving equations in one variable. We learned how to manipulate an equation to solve for an unknown value. We even learned that sometimes there is no answer! In Chapters Three and Four, students explored equations that have two variables called linear equations. Algebra students learned to graph lines and write the equations of lines in different forms. They even used these new skills to plan their own amusement park.

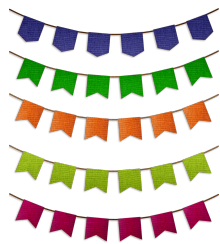


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EnCore classes

Spanish– Señora Zabel

SPANISH: La Navidad is almost here and the Spanish classes will be learning about beautiful Hispanic customs and traditions and engaging in hands-on projects. Papel Picados will be created using brightly colored tissue paper with many decorative designs; and students will also listen to and sing traditional songs.... all in Spanish!



BAND:

Congratulations to Kenyon Gail, Brooklyn Gulmire, Maddie Inger, Elle Lezotte, and Caitlynn Morack for being chosen to participate in the St. Norbert's Fall Honor Band on November 12th. They did an outstanding job and had a wonderful experience!

Our Winter concert is fast approaching! Don't miss the show, Monday, December 19th at 5:30 PM in the Field House. The students are working hard and are ready to share with you some Wisconsin spirit. Our theme to this year's concert is "The Cheesehead Night Before Christmas".

We look forward to seeing you!

Exploratory Music:

Things have been buzzing around here in exploratory music. The 6th graders have completed their unit on instrument families and are now moving onto **World Music Drumming** with our new tubano drums. The 7th graders have been working hard on their piano unit and playing using both hands. Last, but not least, the 8th graders are in the closing weeks of their guitar unit and we are playing lots of chords!

Choir:

Congratulations to the 7th and 8th grade choirs on a beautiful performance as part of the Veteran's Day ceremony held at FMS! What a wonderful example of the power of music and the ability of music to touch hearts. All choir students are also extremely busy putting the final touches on the music for the holiday concert to be held on Monday, December 5 at 7:00pm in the Fieldhouse. We are looking forward to showcasing the hard work of all of these dedicated musicians and using our music to spread the holiday cheer. We look forward to seeing many family and friends in the audience.



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From the health office:

Reminders for the school year-

- If vomiting/diarrhea- your student must be 24 hours vomiting/diarrhea free prior to returning to school/co-curriculars
- Fever of 100.4 or greater, your student will be sent home. Your student must be 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reduction medications prior to returning to school.
- Bring in your emergency medication forms and medications. If a medication is kept on person, a physician must indicate that in the letter/form.
- If there is a change in your student's health condition/diagnosis, physical restrictions, please let the nurse know. Phone is 920-788-7944 or Email is akazik@freedomschools.k12.wi.us

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Middle/High Lunch Menu

Menu Subject to Change

December 2022

USDA is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A la Carte Prices Rice Krispy Bar \$1.25 Muffin \$1.00 Granola Bar \$0.75 Dbl Ch Oatmeal Bar \$0.75 MEGA Meal \$1.50 Water \$1.25 Snapple \$1.50	As a reminder, there must funds available in the family foodservice account in order to purchase A la Carte items.	Student Lunch \$3.00 Reduced Lunch \$0.40 Adult Lunch \$4.35 Extra Carton of Milk \$.30	1 Pizza OR Chicken Sandwich Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk	2 Hot Dog OR Chili Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk
5 Chicken Nuggets OR Pizza Burger Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk	6 Tacos OR Mini Corn Dogs Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk	7 Spaghetti & Meatballs OR Pizza Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk	8 Sloppy Joe OR Chicken Burrito Bowl Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk	9 Hamburger OR Chicken Patty/Mashed Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk
12 No School	13 Nachos OR Italian Sub Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk	14 Chicken Patty OR Rib Sandwich Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk	15 Chicken Tenders OR BBQ Pork Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk	16 Baked Potato Bar OR Fish Sandwich Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk
19 Popcorn Chicken wRice OR Pizza Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk	20 Tacos OR Fish Sandwich Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk	21 Ham & Cheese OR Chicken Alfredo Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk	22 Hamburger OR Corn Dog Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk	23 Bag Lunch Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk
26 No School	27 No School	28 No School	29 The Foodservice Department welcomes your questions or comments. Please call 788-7950 ext. 3301	30 No School