

Freedom Middle School



in the middle

December 2024



Hello and welcome to 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:

Monday, Dec. 2	Choir concert 7:00pm Fieldhouse
Friday, Dec. 6	Midterm 2
Saturday, Dec. 7	Freedom Christmas Parade 6:00pm
Monday, Dec. 9	No school/staff inservice
Friday, Dec. 13	Pentemester 2 ends
Monday, Dec. 16	Pentemester 3 begins/School Board meeting 6:30pm/Band concert 7:00pm
Monday, Dec. 23 - Wednesday, Jan. 1	No School Winter break Enjoy the holidays!!

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Important Reminders:

- ★ 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!

The fall is certainly moving quickly here at FMS. We had a great turnout at our MAPSS-sponsored Halloween Dance. Congratulations to our costume winners. All had a great time and were very well behaved-so much so that we will running another dance in March. We aren't sure what the theme will be yet, but I'm sure it will be a great time.

Wisconsin State Report cards have been released for all schools in Wisconsin. We continue to be proud of our students and staff who provide an excellent learning environment. 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.

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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A note from the Associate Principal...Mrs. Dobbe

Attendance

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well. As we move forward in the school year, I want to take a moment to emphasize the critical role that regular attendance plays in your child's academic success.

Research consistently shows that students who attend school consistently perform better in class, build stronger relationships with their peers and teachers, and are more engaged in learning. When a student misses school, even for just one day, they miss out on valuable instruction, class discussions, and learning opportunities that can be difficult to make up.

In middle school, the foundation for future academic achievement is built. Regular attendance helps your child develop important habits of responsibility, time management, and commitment—skills that are key for success in high school and beyond. Additionally, missing school can lead to gaps in understanding, which can affect your child's performance in assignments, quizzes, and tests.

While we understand that occasional absences due to illness or other reasons are sometimes unavoidable, we encourage families to prioritize regular attendance and to schedule vacations or appointments outside of school hours when possible. If your child does miss a day or more of school, please be sure to contact the school to arrange for make-up work, and encourage your child to seek help from teachers if they need assistance catching up.

Together, we can help ensure that your child has the best opportunity to succeed. We appreciate your continued support and commitment to your child's education. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Behaviors

On Friday, November 1st, the Irish Identities Committee hosted their first ever "Pay to Play" Assembly. Students who exhibited **positive behaviors** and had earned Irish Best Bucks could bring them to their grade level assembly and spend them on prizes and games that were auctioned off. The assemblies went great! The student participation was high and the energy and positivity was contagious! We hope to put on another assembly at the end of term 2. Below are some pictures of each of the grade level assemblies. **The next assembly is scheduled for January 21st.** **Any parents willing to donate items or contribute monetarily for PBIS prizes, please reach out to Mrs. Dobbe via email at adobbe@freedomschools.k12.wi.us or phone extension 2299.

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Buy a Yearbook! Click [here](#) for link.

Walsworth^{yearbooks}

Resume Order

Help

2025 Freedom Middle School

Freedom, WI

2025 Freedom Middle School, Freedom, WI | [CHANGE SCHOOL](#)


BUY A YEARBOOK

Yearbook

Buy a yearbook to help your student remember the year forever.

\$25.00

BUY YEARBOOK



Upload photos to be put into YEARBOOK by following the instructions below.

YEARBOOK SNAP

You take great photos every day. Send us your best photos for consideration in the Freedom Middle School yearbook!

2 WAYS TO SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS TO THE YEARBOOK STAFF:

Download the Yearbook Snap mobile app from the App Store or Google Play, and enter our access code:
fmsyearbook

OR

Go to yearbookforever.com, enter our school name, click on Yearbook Snap and enter our access code:
fmsyearbook

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6th Grade News

6th graders finished up their land-changing processes unit with a website project about a national park of their choice. They filled their website with pictures, fun facts, and a scientific explanation on how landforms in their park were created by weathering, erosion, and deposition. Some of their amazing work is linked below!

[Acadia](#) by Rose VanSchyndel

[American Samoa](#) by Addi VanGroll

[Arches](#) by Khloe Baeten

[Badlands](#) by Diego Valladares Roveló

[Channel Islands](#) by Flynn Hix

[Death Valley](#) by Rowan McPeake

[Gates of the Arctic](#) by Lucas Korth

[Glacier](#) by Ayda Stoop

[Grand Teton](#) by James Groenjes

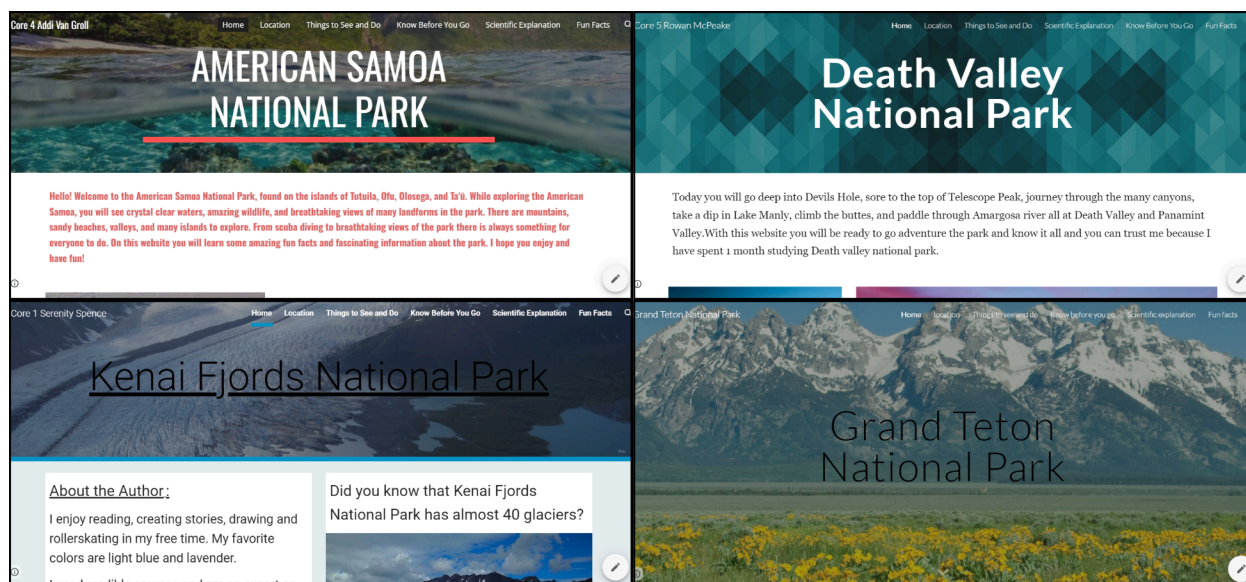
[Kenai Fjords](#) by Serenity Spence

[Kings Canyon](#) by Micah Rodewald

[Pinnacles](#) by Olive Budler-Ronzoni

[Yellowstone](#) by Archer Montonati

[Yosemite](#) by Jewel Midbon



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7th Grade News

7th Grade Writing

A bit of a change of plan as we head into the month of December. Our first informative essay (to be written as a whole class) will be about illusionist and stunt performer Harry Houdini. Houdini has ties to the Fox Valley. Students will read sources on their own then continue as a whole class to plan and write the essay. Upon completion, they will do a mark-up done with some sample essays done to open the unit prior to turn-in. Finally, our Patterns of Power work will continue in December with introductory prepositional phrases.

7th Grade Reading

Students have been working hard to think critically about nonfiction texts. They will be finishing their nonfiction unit right before winter break. Our mentor text, Chasing Lincoln's Killer, has proven to be educational and quite engaging! We are looking to find a media version to compare and contrast before the break.

7th Grade Science

Greetings from 7th Grade Science. As I write this, we have just started the second quarter. We have just switched to our energy unit in OpenSciEd where we will be asking the question, "How can we use chemical reactions to design a solution to a problem?" This unit will look at different forms of energy and how that energy is converted and transformed. Currently we are defining energy and will start looking at heat transfer from a flameless heater to the food in an MRE (hopefully you had a chance to fill out the survey in Google classroom)

BIRD OF THE MONTH: White-throated Sparrow. Yes there are several different kinds of sparrows and none of them are actually called "Sputzies" or "Little Brown Jobs". This bird is migrating through Wisconsin right now after breeding in the Nicolet National Forest and further north to the tundra. Watch for a small brown bird with a white throat patch. Sometimes you can make out a small amount of yellow above each eye. It is most often seen on the ground around bird feeders. It has a very distinctive call. Some people think it is trying to sing "Oh, Canada, Canada, Canada". Others hear, "Oh Sam Peabody Peabody Peabody". Get outside and enjoy our wildlife!!!

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7th Grade Math

7th graders are just finishing up unit 3 on measuring a circle. We are beginning unit 4 that will focus on proportional relationships and proportional reasoning. The unit helps students explore and understand ratios, rates, and proportional relationships through real-world applications. Key concepts include solving problems involving proportional relationships, scaling, and using tables, graphs, and equations to represent these relationships. The unit emphasizes developing skills to solve problems involving ratios, such as using proportions to find unknown quantities, and understanding how to apply these ideas in various contexts, like maps, recipes, and similar figures. Students also work on understanding percentages and their connection to proportional reasoning.



7th Grade Social Studies

Happy November Everyone!

This has been a great month in Social Studies. In class, we have been focused on life in colonial America. We have studied the 13 colonies and the life early settlers experienced when arriving to the new land. Along with learning about colonial America, the students were able to celebrate our veterans on November 11th. For Veteran's Day, the 7th grade students did an incredible job making heartfelt cards to connect with the recipients and show their appreciation to those who have served. Some of the 7th grade students played important roles in our school assembly as either speakers or card distributors. It is certainly great to see our students showcasing their talents.

As we get closer to Thanksgiving, please know that I am thankful for all of the students and families in our Freedom community. Have a wonderful week!



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8th Grade News

In ELA, students began a unit on culture and belonging. Throughout the quarter, we'll read and hear about many people's stories through a variety of cultural experiences. These lessons are designed to help students appreciate their own culture and the cultures of others. Our goal is for students to advocate for one another, know their value, and treat others with kindness.

Students had the opportunity to hear a speaker (and former Freedom student) from World Relief-Fox Valley about immigration law and refugees. As a part of this unit, we will participate in a service project. Students are being asked to assist refugees with donating personal hygiene items. Monetary donations are also accepted. This project will begin the first week of December, so any support or encouragement you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Finally, to recognize the cultural traditions celebrated by many people, we would like to offer students an opportunity to enjoy a variety of cultural cuisine. For this event to take place, we are asking for your assistance. If you are willing to provide students with a cultural treat that may allow them to try something new, we would welcome and appreciate those donations. We do request that you email or contact us via phone to confirm the details of your food. We must request that recipes eliminate anything that contains nuts due to numerous allergies this year. Items can be sweet, savory, or something in between. Otherwise, we are also accepting monetary donations to offset our costs. We are hoping to purchase items like egg rolls, tamales, tikka masala, or other ethnic foods. Please look for future emails regarding the date of this activity.

Veterans Day:

The 8th grade participated in the Veteran's Day assembly.



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Encore Classes

Agriculture

In the 8th grade class, students are diving into the world of sustainability practices! They're exploring how agriculture impacts the environment and brainstorming ways to make small changes that lead to big results. Did you know that 1/3 of the food produced worldwide is wasted, with 40% of that waste happening right in our homes? By understanding these issues, our students are discovering practical ways to reduce waste and create a more sustainable future.

FFA Updates

- **Christmas Parade:** FFA members are invited to join us in the Christmas parade on **December 7**. If you'd like to help decorate and walk in the parade, please talk to Mrs. Heezen or Ms. Heenan.
- **Fruit and Pizza Orders:** All orders are due by **3:30 PM on December 3**.
- **Pick-Up Day:** Mark your calendars! Orders for fruit, pizza, and FFA apparel will be ready for pick-up on **December 19** from 3:30–6:30 PM in the high school agriculture department.

Band/Choir

These past few months were filled with lots of new music as the FMS music department put finishing touches on several events. The FMS 8th grade band filled the halls of school with spooky music as they prepared their Halloween Masquerade concert tunes and traveled to FES along with the high school band, dressed in their Halloween costumes, to entertain the elementary school students on October 31.

Select choir students were chosen to represent FMS at the Singing In Wisconsin music festival held on November 9 at Appleton North High School. Our students joined alongside approximately 70 other middle school students from several northeast Wisconsin middle schools to learn new music on the day of the event, collaborate with their guest conductor throughout several hours of rehearsal, and present it in concert at the end of the event. The students selected were Khloe B, Madison B, Jazmyn C, Samantha D, Nicholas H, Pria M, Zoe P, Nevaeh R, Yareli S M, Rose V, and Emilia W. They represented FMS very well!

Lastly, the sound of the holidays have been heard from the music department as both band and choir are preparing to present their holiday concerts. The choir will hold their 6-12 grade concert on Monday, December 2 at 7:00pm and the band will hold its 6-12 grade concert on Monday, December 16 at 7:00pm. Both concerts will be in the fieldhouse and we extend an invitation to all to come and enjoy the hard work of our students and allow us to help fill you with the hope, joy, and peace of the holiday season.

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Exploratory Music

December is one of my favorite times of year for our students in Exploratory Music. We shift our focus from solo instrument playing (such as guitar and piano) to ensemble styles of playing such as drumming and handchimes. We also begin Mr. Brandt's self-proclaimed world famous *Christmas Carol Countdown*. With each of our classes we explore carols and the history behind each of them. After our winter break, students will begin developing their skills as composers....including writing their own music!

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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.
- All medication must be brought to school/picked up from school by a parent/guardian
- 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

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1st Quarter 2024-2025 – Freedom Middle School ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE Honor Roll

6th Grade

Khloe Baeten
Alexander Fitzsimmons
Eden Geyso
Kole McVay
Rem Mlodzik
Micah Rodewald
Brecken Schuh
Sydney Thompson
Diego Valladares Roveló
Brayden VanCamp
Jack VanderLogt
Cooper VanderLoop
Addilyn VanGroll
Grace VanHandel
Anthony Vosters

7th Grade

Kian Arndt
Charles Benner
Blake Bobusch
Addilyn Everson
Calvin Geyman
Dane Glaske
Drew Glaske
Keira Green
Ellianna Kumbalek
Tenley Lang
Liam Lenhardt
Autumn LeTourneau
Caleb Maufort
Cash Pelkin
Cael Pettitt
Jenna Riegert
Whitney Riegert
Kaitlyn Romitti
Luci Smith
Harper Sowinski
Mason Springstroh
Halle VanderLoop
Hattie VanHandel
Autumn Vosters
Madden Vue
Makayla Webster-
VanDenEng
Tessa Wicklund
Adelyn Zellmer

8th Grade

Nolan Aerts
Ella Bonnet
Brailyn Davis
Hayden Gulmire
Emma Hinrichs
Nicholas Hofacker
Julia Ponschock
Elijah Shepard
Iley Sprangers
Khloe VandenBerg
Cesar Vigil
Evelyn Vosters
Khloe Welsing

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1st Quarter 2024-2025 – Freedom Middle School Honor Roll

6th Grade Honors

Avery Abrams
Easton Aerts
Dominek Arenas
Addison Barse
Noah Beauchamp
Mylah Bork
Will Bougie
Olive Budler-Ronzoni
Cruz Castillo
Nathaniel Christopherson
Autumn Elsinger
Harper Floeter
Emilee Gast
Jackson Geiger
William Gonnering
James Groenjes
Walker Hicks
Liam Howard
Lucas Korth
Cailyn Krull
Rowan McPeake
Jewel Midbon
Brynn Miller
Elise Moore
Vince Pelkin
Payton Peterson
Aubree Schuh
Wyatt Schuh
Isabel Severson
Serenity Spence
Ayda Stoop
Garrett Stroess
Elin Ulness
Cale VanCamp
Lilah VanDeHey
Allie VanderHyden
Valerie Wallace
Marcus Wang
Aubrey Weyenberg
Victoria White
Jack Williams
Asa Wittman

7th Grade Honors

Gabriel Beyer
Emma Brisson
Colin Fitzsimmons
Aleah Frieders
Edgar Guevara Chacon
Maddox Harmsen
Sidney Henkel
Callen Irwin
Evelyn Krueger
Hadley Monfort
Bryce Motquin
Zoe Pierce
Carter Riska
Sophia Smith
Kaylee VanCamp
Rosmery Villagomez
Easton Wolferam

8th Grade Honors

Abigail Abendroth
Madison Behnke
Tristan Brennenstuhl
Vanessa Burchill
Mason Gerrits
Evelyne Gonnering
Eleanor Groenjes
Irelyn Hounsell
Jessa Jochman
Alexis Krull
Lily Maes
Caitlyn Malenofski
Kaylee Mason
Hayden Nabbefeld
Journey Pengrazi
Lily Petersen
Jaquelynn Reiland
Austin Runyon
Nevaeh Ruttner
Andrew Steinbarth
Hayden Strelka
John Tebeau III
Boone Tupper
Uriah VanDeHey
Lauren Wiczorek

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Here is a link for our brand new online interactive menus!

These menus can be used to filter allergens, count carbs, see ingredients, etc. - [Freedom Online Menus](#)

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Full Student Meal is \$1.35 Reduced is \$0.30 Extra Milk \$0.40				
Freedom Middle & High School Breakfast: December				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 French Toast Sticks & Sausage Patty Variety of Cereals	3 Frosted Cinnamon Roll Variety of Cereals	4 Sausage Egg & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich Variety of Cereals	5 Banana Bread Variety of Cereals	6 Belgian Waffle & Cheese Omelet Variety of Cereals
9 School Inservice - No School	10 Banana Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Bar Variety of Cereals	11 Sausage Egg & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich Variety of Cereals	12 Banana Bread Variety of Cereals	13 Belgian Waffle & Cheese Omelet Variety of Cereals
16 French Toast Sticks & Sausage Patty Variety of Cereals	17 Frosted Cinnamon Roll Variety of Cereals	18 Sausage Egg & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich Variety of Cereals	19 Banana Bread Variety of Cereals	20 Belgian Waffle & Cheese Omelet Variety of Cereals
23 No School - Winter Break	24 No School - Winter Break	25 No School - Winter Break	26 No School - Winter Break	27 No School - Winter Break
30 No School - Winter Break	31 No School - Winter Break			

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Full Student Meal is \$3.00 Reduced is \$0.40 Extra Milk \$0.40				
Freedom Middle & High School: December Lunch Menu				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 (1) Boneless Chicken Wings (2) Cheeseburger (3) Cheese & Sausage Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	3 (1) Rotini in Spaghetti with Meatballs (2) Chicken Tenders (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	4 (1) Sloppy Joe Tator Tot Casserole w/ Breadstick (2) Cheeseburger (3) Cheese & Sausage Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	5 (1) Pulled Pork Nachos (2) Spicy Chicken Sandwich (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	6 (1) Popcorn Chicken Bowl (2) Pizza Dippers (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables
9 School Inservice - No School	10 (1) Mini Corn Dogs w/ Macaroni & Cheese (2) Chicken Tenders (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	11 (1) Baked Potato Bar (2) Hot Dog (3) Cheese & Sausage Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	12 (1) Chicken Soft Tacos (2) Breaded Chicken Sandwich (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	13 (1) Chicken Noodle Soup w/ Grilled Cheese Sandwich (2) Pizza Dippers (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables
16 (1) Orange Chicken w/ Egg Roll & Fried Rice (2) Cheeseburger (3) Cheese & Sausage Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	17 (1) Chicken Alfredo w/ Breadstick (2) Chicken Tenders (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	18 (1) Strawberry Parfait & Granola (2) Cheeseburger (3) Cheese & Sausage Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	19 (1) Beef & Cheese Nachos (2) Spicy Chicken Sandwich (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	20 (1) Popcorn Chicken Bowl (2) Pizza Dippers (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Assorted Fruits and Vegetables
23 Winter Break - No School	24 Winter Break - No School	25 Winter Break - No School	26 Winter Break - No School	27 Winter Break - No School
30 Winter Break - No School	31 Winter Break - No School	Winter Break - No School	Winter Break - No School	No School

A full student lunch includes a choice of entrée supplying protein and grain, two (2) vegetable side dishes, one (1) fruit side dish, and a choice of milk. Milk choices include skim white, 1% white and non-fat chocolate. Menu subject to change. Please contact Logan Wilson, Director of Dining Services 284-5570. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.