

Freedom Middle School



in the middle

February 2025



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:

Saturday, Feb. 1	MS musical
Sunday, Feb. 2	MS musical
Monday, Feb. 10	MAPSS meeting 5:00pm
Wednesday, Feb. 12	Parent/teacher conferences 4:00pm - 7:30pm
Thursday, Feb. 13	Early dismissal 12:30pm; staff inservice; Pentemester 3 ends
Friday, Feb. 14	No school/Conference break
Monday, Feb. 17	No school/staff inservice; School board meeting 6:30pm
Tuesday, Feb. 18	Pentemester 4 begins
Friday, Feb. 21	Midterm 3

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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! Please take note that we will have our first-ever **FMS Showcase Night** on **January 27th from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM**. This new event will be an opportunity for you to see the many wonderful things that are going on here at Freedom Middle School.

Activities include:

- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
- Art Show

- National History Day Displays
- Classroom Exhibits and activities
- Silent Auction of the old FMS sign letters.

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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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

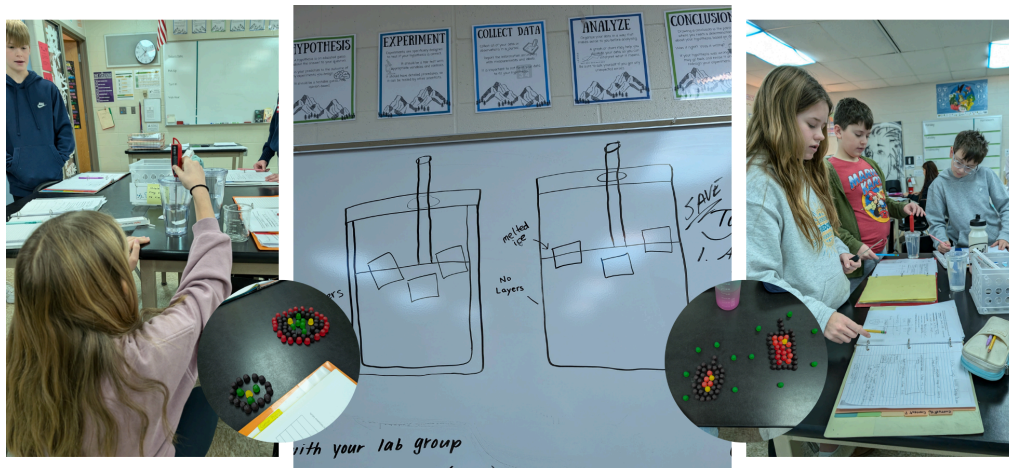
OR

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 grade scientists are currently testing different properties of matter to learn about the conservation of thermal energy in a unit we call *fancy cup vs regular cup*. They have also been able to work with The Scientific Method, identify variables, and design their own experiments. Ask your 6th grader(s) about which cups are best used to keep hot things hot and cold things cold!



Congratulations to the following 6th graders who qualified for and competed in our FMS Spelling Bee in January: Allie Zirbel, Olive Budler-Ronzoni (alternate), Elise Moore, Veda Rothe, Jason Kurowski, Eddie Hermes, Marcus Wang, Rem Mlodzik, Dominek Arenas, Micah Rodewald. (Not pictured: Wyatt Schuh)



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7th Grade News

7th Grade Writing

February will hold the end of our informative writing unit while students work independently to construct an essay about Jackie Robinson with sources and a planning packet provided. After the essay, students will be watching the biopic “42” about Robinson’s life. Look for a permission slip to come home.

While continuing with Patterns of Power, Test 2 will be early in the month covering introductory prepositional phrases, introductory subordinate clauses, and complex sentences. We will review for a day in class, and students will be able to use their ELA three-ring binder on the test which houses all the Patterns of Power packets with definitions and examples of each concept.

Finally, congratulations to the following seventh graders who participated in the school level of the spelling bee: Harper Sowinski, Payten Klesmit, Halle VanderLoop, Tenley Lang, Mya Bahr, Cody Pynenberg, Emma Brisson, Cael Pettitt, Edgar Guevara-Chacon, and Cameron Miland.

7th Grade Reading

This month, students are diving into the world of dystopian literature! After kicking off the unit at the end of January, we will continue exploring this genre throughout February. Students will sharpen their skills in analyzing complex fiction, identifying symbolism, key elements of dystopian literature, propaganda, and common archetypes that define this genre. Discussions and academic conversations will deepen their understanding of these themes. Additionally, we’ll reinforce their vocabulary growth by continuing to study roots and affixes through daily bell ringers and reviews.

7th Grade Math

I have been very impressed with the 7th grade students completing Unit 4 on percentages. The next time you go out for dinner, see if your child can figure out how much to leave for a tip. We are now starting Unit 5 "Expressions and Equations." In this unit, students focus on understanding and working with algebraic expressions and equations. They will learn how to simplify expressions, apply properties of operations, and solve one-step and two-step equations. The unit emphasizes solving problems that involve variables and unknowns, helping students build foundational algebra skills.

Many students no longer have pencils, red pens, and even their calculators. Check in with your child to see if they have all the supplies they need for a great start to the 3rd quarter.

7th Grade Social Studies

We are already entering the 3rd quarter. Since our winter break, we have been focusing on both the American Revolution and our National History Day projects. The students worked very hard on their projects, and I was impressed with their ideas and their work. Even though the projects looked great, the kids were both nervous and excited to show off all of their hard work at the showcase.

Now that NHD is behind us, we will finish the end of the American Revolution and begin looking at a "New Nation". I encourage you to ask your student(s) about the topics they have discussed in Social Studies class. Have a great February!

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7th Grade Science

Greetings from 7 th Grade Science. We are currently in our Metabolic Reactions Unit. In this exploration, students are introduced to a young person who is seeing a doctor for a variety of symptoms that are affecting several of her body systems. We are currently figuring out that her digestive system seems to be a major player in these issues so we will start investigating the role of the stomach, small and large intestine. We will also see how food travels through the entire digestive system from start to end.

Traditionally the third quarter is the worst for missing assignments. This is just a friendly reminder to keep checking the agendas and online grades to make sure that the homework assignments are getting done and turned in on time. If you ever have a question, all 7 th grade teachers are very good at getting back to your emails.

Spring is right around the corner. Keep your eyes open for this month's bird. The first Red-winged blackbirds usually return back around the end of February/beginning of March. Males will show up first and set up territories. The females will show up one to two weeks later.



Above: Seventh graders participate in the final round of their paper airplane lab in Mr. Atwater's science class.

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8th Grade News

Math 8

Math 8 students will start the second semester by beginning Unit 4. In this unit, students build on their grades 6 and 7 work with equivalent expressions and equations. They will write and solve equations. When you learned to solve equations in school, you may remember the idea of keeping a scale balanced. What you do on one side of the scale, you need to do to the other to keep it balanced - or, what you do to one side of the equation, you need to do to the other to keep the two sides equal. Your student will be working with a “hanger diagram” that depicts two collections of shapes that balance each other. Assuming that identical shapes have the same weight, they decide which actions of adding or removing weights preserve that balance. They will build upon the understanding of “hanger diagrams” to solve multi-step equations in one variable. In the second half of Unit 4, students will again be working with linear equations and graphing lines to solve systems of linear equations in two variables.

ELA

One World, Many Stories

by Nicholas Hofacker

In the second quarter, eighth-grade students experienced an ELA unit on culture and belonging. At the beginning of this unit, students looked at a quote by Jawaharlal Nehru, where he said, “Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit.” He meant that culture isn’t just about traditions and practices, it is about understanding others and being open to their ideas, perspectives, or practices. To deepen eighth graders’ understanding of this, eighth-grade ELA teachers at Freedom Middle School assigned various articles, short stories, and *TED Talks* to which students responded. Through these various sources, students understood how their individual differences contribute to this “one world.”

To start off the unit, eighth graders read “My Favorite Chaperone” by Jean Davies Okimoto, a short story where Maya Alazova, a ninth grader who recently immigrated to Seattle from Kazakhstan, was learning to assimilate into American culture while her parents, Aibek and Gulnara, were quite traditional. Maya’s goal was to attend the Spring Fling dance at Beacon Junior High to have a typical American experience, but she didn’t believe her parents would give her permission. When Nurzhan, Maya’s younger brother, got into a fight, Maya had to miss gymnastics to translate information between Papa and the principal. After Mama was injured, Maya took on her mother’s work in addition to her own responsibilities. Mama’s observation allowed her to realize that Maya was still just a young girl and began to accept differences in dating culture. Nurzhan asked for Maya to be allowed to attend the dance with him as her chaperone, so they were able to experience something typically American while respecting Kazakh tradition. As the story ended, Mama gave Maya a bracelet to wear to the dance and told her, “Girls and boys dance younger here, Maya,” which acknowledged that she understood some of the cultural differences. Ultimately, students recognized the challenges that recent immigrants face when first moving to the United States.

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Second in this unit, eighth-grade students read “I Live in a Refugee Camp,” by Kristin Lewis, an article published in 2019. The subject of the article, a fifteen-year-old girl named Bilan, and her family were forced to flee their home country of Somalia due to conflicts of violence, widespread droughts, and famine. In 2015, they had begun to cross the border with very few of their belongings. After a tedious, ten-day journey, the family arrived in Ethiopia. There, they had to construct a new life in the Kobe refugee camp with 50,000 other people. Lewis stated that the Kobe camp “provide[d] food, medicine, housing, and protection.” Although these things were given, the camp was still a challenging place to live. Even though Bilan had to face many new challenges, such as walking to the camp’s well and back every day and having to cook over a small campfire with ingredients from the tiny market, in the end, she accepted her new life. Ultimately, this article helped students recognize the challenges some refugees face by having to uproot their lives and start over in a camp in a new country.

After the readings, eighth-grade students watched Poet Ali’s *TED Talk*, “The Language of Being Human.” In July 2019, Ali spoke in front of a crowd in Edinburgh, Scotland. This enlightening talk included details about the importance of language in one’s life and showed how, beyond words, there are many types of non-spoken languages that involve personal experience. He wanted people to know that it is okay to speak different languages or have different experiences and that no matter what, everyone is fundamentally the same; everyone is human. Poet Ali said, “Different languages give us access to new worlds.” By giving the audience this statement, Ali established the idea that through learning new languages, people can learn more about other cultures, therefore being able to experience these “new worlds.” To finish his talk, Poet Ali asked people to stand up if they related to one of the languages or experiences he listed. He listed things such as growing up as a fat kid, having a loved one be diagnosed with cancer, or not having enough to pay the bills. This exercise encouraged people to find someone who shared the same “language.” Ultimately, eighth-grade students learned a valuable lesson from this talk: it is okay to have different backgrounds and experiences than one another, but finding common ground is a valuable skill.

Next in the unit, eighth-grade students read “Marching Toward a Dream” and “She Wants to Change the World,” paired texts by Allison Friedman. Friedman put these texts together to show how distressing segregation was in the past and how even though it is outlawed in today’s world, unfortunately, People like Tom and Yolanda still strive to uphold these laws today. The first article was about Tom Ellison. It explained his experience seeing Martin Luther King Jr. and walking in the March on Washington. The second one was about Dr. King’s granddaughter and her experience trying to carry on her grandfather’s legacy. Ellison’s father was a minister who helped lead protests, which inspired him to attend protests and meetings on his own. On August 28, 1963, Tom arrived in Washington D.C., and when Tom was at Dr. King’s speech, Tom heard him say, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” After sixty-one years, although the world has come very far, Dr. King’s granddaughter Yolanda Renee King continues to fight for this same cause: equality. Ultimately, students understood that, even though society has come very far with civil rights, it still has a long way to go.

In conclusion, eighth-grade students learned a lot through the culture and belonging unit. One of the many things that helped them acknowledge the importance of this was when Mrs. Lingnofski said, “Everyone wants to feel a sense of culture and belonging, so we address these topics in an effective and meaningful way.”

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Encore News

Exploratory Music:

As the new year settles in, Exploratory Music students begin exploring their own composition abilities. Each class will be discussing musical genres and what makes music good/bad before tackling a composition project of their own. This unit is one of my favorites throughout the year as students develop their own musical voice and refine their individual creative ideas!

As always, if you have a question regarding something in class, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Spanish: Señora Zabel

One of the goals in Spanish class is to get students excited about learning a World Language. During class, we brainstormed a list of important reasons to learn Spanish:

1. It's fun to get to know people from different cultures.
2. It's important to be able to communicate with others.
3. It comes in handy when traveling.
4. It increases your brain function.
5. It can help you get hired for jobs.
6. It can help you learn more about yourself.
7. It is great for a future career.
8. It's easier to learn when you are young.
9. It is spoken throughout the world.
10. It is a great way to make new friends.

Health:

6th: Our 6th graders have been focusing on hygiene and personal care, learning about the importance of regular showering, proper handwashing, and using deodorant to maintain cleanliness and confidence. Students practiced hand washing techniques and discussed tips for making hygiene part of their daily routine. Moving forward, we'll transition into lessons on the skeletal and muscular systems, where students will learn about how their bodies are built and how to keep these systems strong and healthy.

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Encore News

7th Grade:

Seventh graders have been diving into the world of nutrition! They've been learning about the different nutrients our bodies need—such as carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, and minerals—and how to find these nutrients in everyday foods. As part of a fun and creative "Food Truck Project," students worked in teams to design a food truck menu featuring balanced meals and healthy snack options. Next, we'll explore the endocrine system, where students will discover how hormones influence growth, metabolism, and other essential body functions.

8th Grade:

Our 8th graders have been focusing on self-awareness and relationships. They began the term with lessons on identity, exploring what makes each of us unique and how understanding who we are contributes to our self-esteem. From there, we discussed healthy traits in a friendship, such as respect, trust, and good communication. These topics have set the stage for our next unit, where we will explore reproductive anatomy and its connection to understanding and respecting ourselves and others.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL SPELLING BEE WINNERS!

First Place: Ella Bonnet

Second Place: Addison Kruger

Third Place: Veda Rothe

Fourth Place: Eli Shepard

Fifth Place: Andrew Steinbarth



Left to Right: Ella Bonnet, Addison Kruger, Eli Shepard, Andrew Steinbarth, and Veda Rothe

Ella Bonnet and Addison Kruger will be competing in the Regional Spelling Bee held on February 19th at JRG Middle School in Kimberly.

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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 in its original container. This does include over the counter medications.
- 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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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: January				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
French Toast Sticks & Sausage Patty	Banana Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Bar	Sausage Egg & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich	Banana Bread	Belgian Waffle & Cheese Omelet
Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals
10	11	12	13	14
French Toast Sticks & Sausage Patty	Frosted Cinnamon Roll	Sausage Egg & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich	Banana Bread	No School
Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals	
17	18	19	20	21
Staff Work Day - No School	Banana Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Bar	Sausage Egg & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich	Banana Bread	Belgian Waffle & Cheese Omelet
	Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals
24	25	26	27	28
French Toast Sticks & Sausage Patty	Frosted Cinnamon Roll	Sausage Egg & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich	Banana Bread	Belgian Waffle & Cheese Omelet
Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals	Variety of Cereals

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Full Student Meal is \$3.00 Reduced is \$0.40 Extra Milk \$0.40				
Freedom Middle & High School: February Lunch Menu				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 (1) Boneless Chicken Wings (2) Cheeseburger (3) Cheese & Sausage Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	4 (1) Mini Corn Dogs w/ Potato Wedges (2) Chicken Tenders (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	5 (1) Baked Potato Bar (2) Hot Dog (3) Cheese & Sausage Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	6 (1) Beef Tacos (2) Breaded Chicken Sandwich (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	7 (1) Tomato Soup w/ Grilled Cheese Sandwich (2) Pizza Dippers (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables
10 (1) Orange Chicken w/ Egg Roll & Fried Rice (2) Cheeseburger (3) Cheese & Sausage Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	11 (1) Chicken Alfredo w/ Breadstick (2) Chicken Tenders (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	12 (1) Strawberry Parfait & Granola (2) Cheeseburger (3) Cheese & Sausage Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	13 (1) Pulled Pork Nachos (2) Spicy Chicken Sandwich (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	14 No School
17 Staff Work Day - No School	18 (1) Sloppy Joe Tator Tot Casserole (2) Chicken Tenders (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	19 (1) Pizza Pasta Bake w/ Breadstick (2) Hot Dog (3) Cheese & Sausage Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	20 (1) Beef Tacos (2) Breaded Chicken Sandwich (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	21 (1) Fish Sticks & French Fries (2) Pizza Dippers (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Assorted Fruits and Vegetables
24 (1) Chicken Nuggets & Soft Pretzel (2) Cheeseburger (3) Cheese & Sausage Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	25 (1) Spaghetti & Meatballs (2) Chicken Tenders (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	26 (1) Chicken & Waffles (2) Cheeseburger (3) Cheese & Sausage Pizza Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	27 (1) Chicken Bacon Ranch Flatbread (2) Spicy Chicken Sandwich (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Assorted Fruits and Vegetables	28 (1) Popcorn Chicken Bowl (2) Pizza Dippers (3) Cheese & Pepperoni Assorted Fruits and Vegetables

A full student lunch includes a choice of entrée supply ing 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.