



Freedom Middle School

in the middle

December 2023



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!!!!

in the middle

Important Dates:

Saturday, Dec. 2	Freedom Christmas Parade
Monday, Dec. 4	Choir concert 7:00pm
Wednesday, Dec. 6	Parent/Teacher conferences 4:00pm - 6:00pm
Monday, Dec. 11	No school; staff inservice
Tuesday, Dec. 12	MAPSS meeting 5:00pm
Thursday, Dec. 14	Band concert 7:00pm
Monday, Dec. 18	Pentemester 2 ends; Board meeting 6:30pm
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Pentemester 3 begins
Monday, Dec. 25 - Friday, Dec. 29	No school 

in the middle

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. Lunch runs from 12:00 - 12:30. If your student will be leaving during the lunch time please call the school ahead of time so that your child can have a pass to leave.

in the middle



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 are considering adding another dance in March!

Wisconsin State Report cards will soon be 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.

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.



in the middle

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



in the middle

News from 6th Grade

During Irish Hour at the end of the day, students can sign up for extra help in Reading and Math, or enrichment activities: Word Games, Readers' Theatre, Spanish, Current Events, or Science Inquiry.



Students enjoying some word games during Irish Hour.

in the middle

News from 7th grade

As we forge through December in ELA, students will be finishing the reading of The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963. Each chapter has comprehension questions during reading and a thought question/written response at the end. Once finished reading, students will create a Venn Diagram to compare the book with its film counterpart. Students will be working with fragments and serial commas in our Patterns of Power series and Greek prefixes in our root work. Upon return from the holiday break, students will complete the December book project focusing on conflict and characterization.

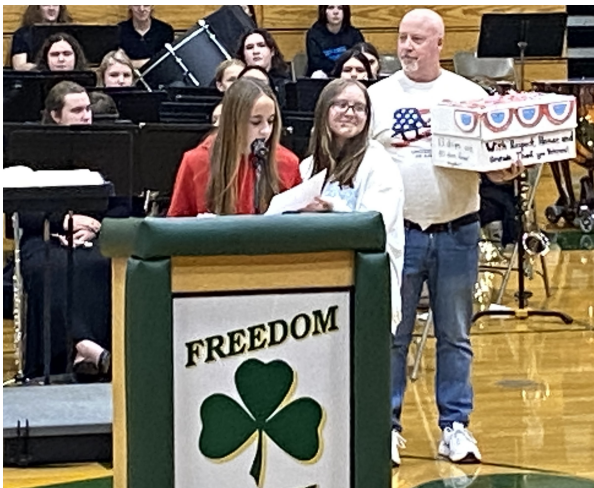
Greetings from 7th Grade Science. As I write this, we have just started the second quarter. We have just switched to our physics unit of IQWST where we will be asking the question, “Why do some things stop while others keep going?” This unit will look at different forms of energy and how that energy is converted and transformed. Currently we are defining energy and will start looking at kinetic energy next.

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!!!

in the middle

In 7th grade social studies, students are learning about America's first settlements and the settling of the original 13 colonies. Also in December, we will start working on NHD (National History Day). This is a research project that will give students a choice to learn about something in history that they want to learn more about.

Below: Khloe and Hayden, along with Mr. LeBrun, present cards made by seventh graders to veterans at FMS' Veteran's Day Assembly. Additional cards are sent to our state veteran's home in King, WI.



In seventh grade math, students recently participated in an escape room. They used the skills they learned about percentages to help them "escape". We recently moved into the chapter on integers. It would be especially helpful if you talked with your child about negative and positive numbers at home. For example, we talk a lot about temperatures. If the temperature is -3 degrees and it drops 2 more degrees what is the new temperature outside? -5 degrees.



Norah, Jamei, Jackson, and Sawyer take part in the math escape room.

in the middle

News from 8th grade

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 are participating in a service project. Students are being asked to assist refugees in settling into new homes by donating cleaning or home supplies and/or personal hygiene items. Monetary donations are also accepted. This project runs until the end 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 on Thursday, December 21. 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, lefsa, or other ethnic foods.

Veterans Day:

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



in the middle

EnCore Classes

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

Band/Choir:

The music department is preparing for the holiday concerts which are coming up fast! The 6-12 choir concert will be held on Monday, December 4 at 7:00pm and the 6-12 band concert will be held on Thursday, December 14 at 7:00pm. Both concerts will be held in the fieldhouse. We look forward to seeing all of you there. Thank you in advance for your wonderful support of your children and of our FMS music department.

There has been a lot of hard work, focus, and dedication on the part of the kids to prepare for these events and we are excited to share it with you. We wish you all a very happy holiday season!

Exploratory Music:

December becomes a very busy month for us in the land of exploratory music. Not only are students finishing up the instrument their class is working on, (guitar, piano, or drums) but everyone begins to move into our Handchime unit! The handchimes are a great way to celebrate the season while learning about a different type of instrument ensemble. It is also something I encourage the 8th graders to take in High School!

Exploratory Ag:

Students in the 7th grade exploratory class have been learning about a variety of livestock species with Ms. Heenan. Students in the 8th grade class have just begun exploring concepts of agricultural sustainability with Mrs. Heezen. We also held our first FFA meeting on November 14, before school, to inform students of upcoming FFA opportunities. There is still time to join FFA if you are interested! Stop by Ms. Heenan or Mrs. Heezen to get a membership form. We are looking for 3-5 students to form a Quiz Bowl team for the contest on January 29!

in the middle

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

in the middle

Freedom Athletic Association Summer 2024 Registration
is now
OPEN!



Baseball, Softball & Soccer

Registration open from 11/14/23 through 12/31/23

\$40 late fee added to registrations received after 1/1/24

<https://freedomathletics.sportngin.com/register/form/843750908>

Get ready for the season with NEW GEAR!
**December 5 is the deadline for ordering to ensure
delivery for Christmas Gifts!**

<https://www.kbdesign.shop/collections/freedom-athletic-association-holiday-collection>