



**Freedom Middle School**

# in the middle

February 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:

Friday, Feb. 2	Willy Wonka Musical 6:00 pm Lecture Hall
Saturday, Feb. 3	Willy Wonka Musical 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm Lecture Hall
Sunday, Feb. 4	Willy Wonka Musical 2:00 pm Lecture Hall
Thursday, Feb. 8	National History Day Showcase 6:00 -7:00 pm Green Gym
Friday, Feb. 9	National History Day judging - Green Gym
Monday, Feb. 12	MAPSS Meeting 5:00 pm Library
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 - 6:30 pm
Thursday, Feb. 15	Pentemester 3 ends; 12:30 dismissal; PM inservice
Friday, Feb. 16	No school; conference break
Monday, Feb. 19	No school; staff inservice; Board meeting 6:30 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 20	Pentemester 4 begins

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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. 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.

## **Summer School**

**Summer School will run Monday, June 10 – Friday, June 28, 2024 from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. Registration will begin on March 21 and end on April 12.**

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## Dr. Methner

Hello FMS Parents and Guardians!

January was a great month at FMS, and we are excited about February! Here are some highlights:

- The much-anticipated National History Day event is planned and moving forward!
- The annual spelling bee competition was held on Friday, January 19th. I was honored to be the "reader" for the words in the event. Congratulations to our winners!
- Our MAPSS group is planning exciting activities for the spring, including a Freedom Irish-themed dance in March—stay tuned!

It's amazing that we are at the midpoint of our school year. I feel fortunate to work with such passionate educators and am impressed with our student body.

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

The Homework Helpline 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: <https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/fms/students/homework-helpline.cfm>

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](mailto:gmethner@freedomschools.k12.wi.us), or by phone at 920-788-7945 ext. 2309. GO IRISH!!!

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## *Counselor's Corner - Mr. Jason Bins*

Greetings Freedom Middle School Stakeholders and where did the first half of school go? Although fast, our 2023-24 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 February to support our students and families.

As we enter February, we start to focus on Academic and Career Planning at all grade levels. In these push-in lessons, we work with students to explore careers and the pathways to getting there.

February also continues our fifth to sixth grade transition. To do this, we work with the FES counselors to slowly introduce our fifth graders for their upcoming building change, so they can be productive members of the FMS student body.

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!

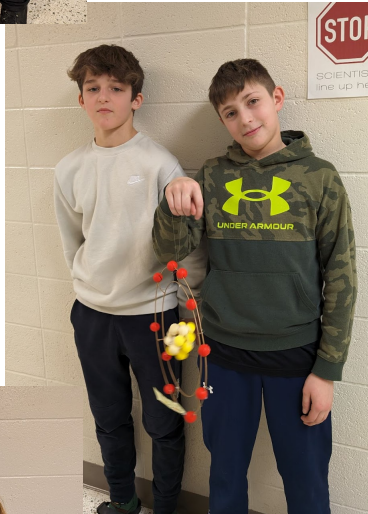
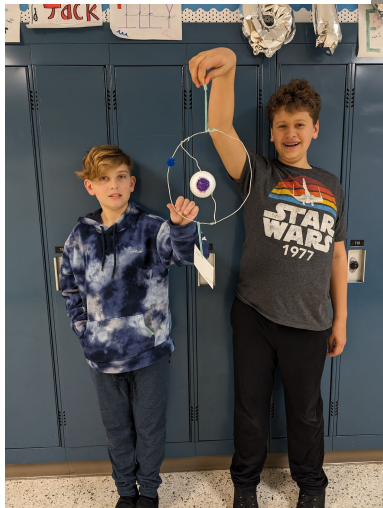
Thank you for your support of Freedom Middle School and its students and staff! Please let me know what I can do to help your student. I can be reached at (920) 788-7945 (x2288) or via email at [jbins@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:jbins@freedomschools.k12.wi.us).  
Water the Bamboo! -JB



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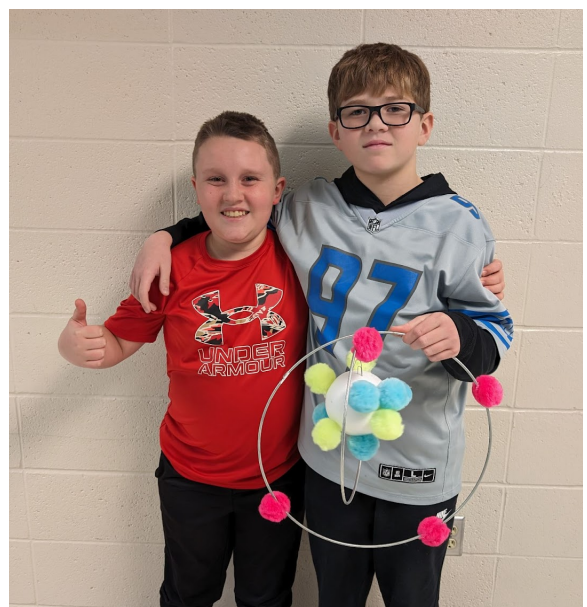
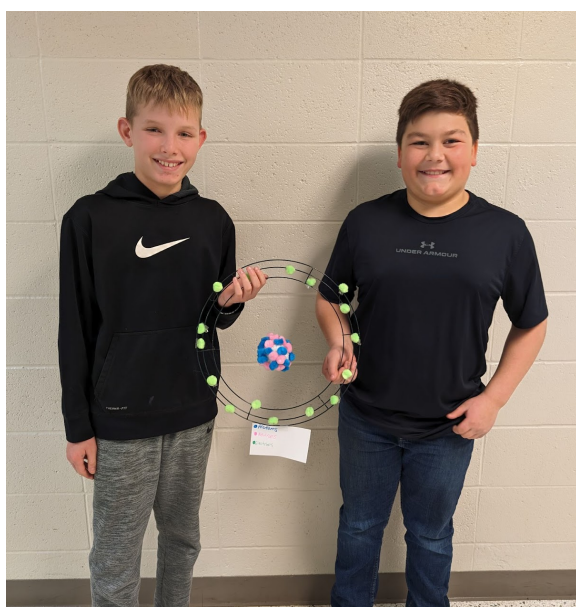
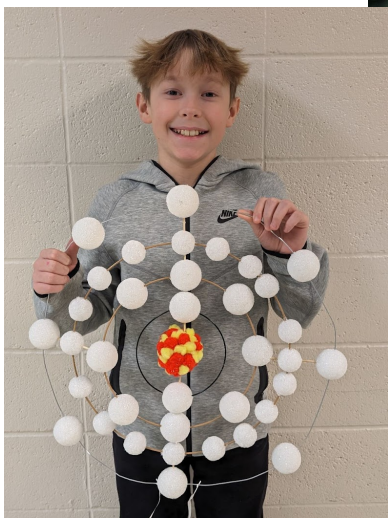
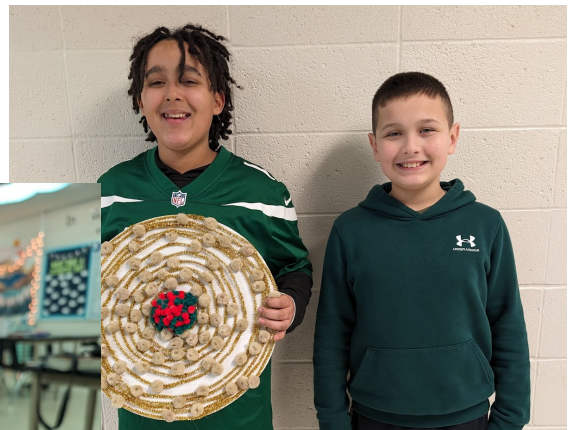
## News from 6th Grade

To finish their investigation on what makes up matter, 6th grade scientists researched information on an element from the Periodic Table and created an atomic model. Check out some of their work below!



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## News from 7th grade

### 7th Grade ELA

As we move into the second semester and the month of February, students will be finishing up the informative writing unit working with two additional topics: the Peshtigo Fire and Jackie Robinson. Jackie Robinson transitions nicely into our next unit: Collection 6 - Guided by a Cause. This textbook unit has text and media selections regarding activism. Students will do a variety of activities that show their knowledge of using both text evidence and explicit text evidence, close reading, and research skills.

We will be picking back up with our weekly roots Slides. This final Slide deck of the year will focus on Greek suffixes.

Our monthly independent reading will continue as well. As they have since October, students will have a sheet to take notes on while they read to assist them on the project at the end of the month.

### 7th Grade Math

In seventh grade math, we just finished chapter 5. Throughout this chapter, students got a good look at algebra. The focus was on expressions and how they will apply the properties of operations to simplify and evaluate algebraic expressions. Chapter 6 will continue focusing on algebra, but students will have a better understanding of how to

use the properties of equality to solve equations algebraically then apply what they have learned to solve inequalities.

### 7th Grade Science

Greetings from 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science. We are just entering our Earth Science unit. This IQWST unit focuses on weather and climate. The big picture question that we will be trying to answer is, "What makes the weather change?" We will investigate what causes storms, why weather is different from place to place and climate change. 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will be on biology where the focus is on cellular processes.

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<sup>th</sup> 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.



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*Pictured: Seventh grade students work on their NHD projects in social studies.*



## **7th Grade Social Studies**

In 7th grade social studies, students have been busy preparing their NHD exhibits. Students will be setting up their exhibits on Thursday February 8 and then will have them judged on Friday February 9.



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## News from 8th grade



To wrap up the culture and belonging unit, eighth graders shared cultural food items with their classmates. (More photos below article)

### **Accepting Others**

by Lila Peterson

During the second quarter, Freedom Middle School eighth graders and ELA teachers studied a unit on culture and belonging in ELA class. They watched a documentary and *TED Talks*, and listened to two speakers from World Relief-Wisconsin at FMS. They also read two articles and a short story along with discussing the topic within large and small groups.

Mrs. Lingnofski stated, “Everyone wants to feel a sense of culture and belonging, so we address these topics in an effective and meaningful way.”

At the beginning of the unit, eighth graders read a fictional story set in the present time called “My Favorite Chaperone” by Jean Davies Okimoto. Maya Alazova, a ninth grader at Beacon Junior High, was trying to assimilate to American culture after immigrating to Seattle, Washington from Kazakhstan. However, her parents, Aibek and Gulnara, were quite traditional. Her goal was to attend the Spring Fling dance at school, but she didn’t believe her parents would give her permission. Students experienced Maya’s struggle to assimilate when her parents expected her to translate for them, take care of chores at home, and watch her younger brother, Nurzhan, while also trying to assist them with learning about American culture. Mama became injured, so Maya had to also take over her cleaning jobs and household tasks. While watching Maya take on more responsibilities, Mama realized that she was still just a young girl. To gain permission for Maya to attend the dance, Nurzhan must accompany her as a chaperone. This allowed Maya to participate in a typical American event while respecting her Kazakh traditions. As the story ended, Maya’s mama gifted her a gold bracelet and told her that, “Girls and boys dance younger here, Maya,” to acknowledge that she understood some of the differences between cultures. By reading this story, FMS eighth graders understood more about the challenges that new immigrants face when they first move to the United States.

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Continuing in their unit, eighth graders read an article that was set in 2015, called “I Live in a Refugee Camp” by Kristin Lewis. Bilan, a fifteen-year-old, along with her family, was trying to survive in Ethiopia, at Kobe refugee camp, away from the harsh violence that their home country, Mogadishu, Somalia, was experiencing. In order to make the new life that she wanted, her goal, along with other refugees, was to eventually be placed somewhere else or be sent back home. The only problem was that she was stuck in the unknown. The camps that refugees were placed at were packed with a ton of people and were in the middle of nowhere, and made daily tasks much more difficult. Bilan struggled with the difficult chores of retrieving firewood outside of the camp in dangerous conditions and finding water, which was very time consuming. While doing all of those difficult tasks, four years later, she remembered that she made this life change. On page six, author Kristin Lewis quoted, “But early on, Bilan made a choice. She decided to accept her new life--and to make the best of it. ‘I had to adapt,’ she says simply.” This wasn’t one of the easiest changes she had to make, but she didn’t have the choice. She has made new friends along the way, playing volleyball, shopping, and going to school. By reading this article, eighth graders learned the various challenges that refugees faced after they were forced to flee their home country.

Next in the FMS eighth graders’ culture and belonging unit, they read an article called “More Than a Game” by Mackenzie Carro written in 2021. Lyle Thompson, a part of the Iriquois Nationals lacrosse team, played at the World Lacrosse Championships in 2018. This group of lacrosse players was not only a part of their team, but was a part of Haudensaunee. They were mainly located in northern New York state and southeastern Canada, and had their own set of rules for the game that they played. The only thing they had in common was the important tradition of playing the sport lacrosse. Since they were uniquely connected to the Native beginning of lacrosse, they only wanted to make it to the 2028 Olympic Games. The only way they could make it to the Olympics was to play at the World Games. This was an event that hosted multiple sports that had a chance at the Olympics. The only problem was that they didn’t make it on the roster for the World games because they were not representing a country which is needed for the Olympics. They were upset because they felt that they were representing a country not like Canada or the United States, but their own nation that they created, even though it wasn’t allowed. Thankfully for them, a miracle happened. Stated in the article in the section “Taking Action,” “Ireland’s lacrosse team knew the Nationals far outranked them.” “So the team decided to drop out and asked that the Nationals to compete in their place.” This is one step towards the goal of making it to the Olympics where they could share their culture with the world. In conclusion, FMS eighth graders learned the challenges that different cultures experienced through a variation of sports.

Towards the end of the culture and belonging unit, eighth graders watched a documentary called *Waking in Oak Creek*, created by an organization, Not in Our Town. On Sunday, August 5, 2012, a mass shooting occurred at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin in which six people were killed. During a gathering, a white supremacist, Wade Michael Page, invaded the temple and shot at multiple people. He shot specifically at this community because of his hatred towards their religion. On top of that, he wanted to break this religion up and ruin it since he didn’t agree with it. When police officers Brian Murphy and Sam Lenda made it to the scene, they were fired at. Eventually, the shooting ended and the Sikh community began the grieving process. Wade’s goal was not achieved because instead of breaking apart, the Sikh religion grew closer and assisted each other in ways that were beneficial to each individual. They did this because they were in the process of rebuilding their lives without their loved ones and yearned to change the world. Altogether, they honored those who were killed by

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having ceremonies with candles and giving speeches. After their grieving process, they not only wanted to continue to remember them but to make changes in the world. At the end of the video, it states, “Pardeep and Arno founded Serve 2 Unite with Amardeep. Together, they are training young people in peacebuilding.” Their goal wasn’t to hate the people who use violence but to prevent the future from repeating the same mistake. In conclusion, FMS eighth graders learned the trouble that different religions and cultures experienced and that it is better to accept rather than hate people.

In conclusion, eighth graders learned about culture and belonging because it’s important to accept everyone’s cultural differences. Mrs. Fogarty wrote, “I believe that each person deserves to be valued.”



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## EnCore Classes

### **Exploratory Music**

The hills are alive with music...and snow! As the long stretch of Winter grabs hold, we begin to open up our exploration to composers, music history, and a month of jazz music. All of this on top of classes completing their handbell units and moving on to new main instruments.

One of the things we begin to discuss with our 8th grade students is how to continue with music into high school. I encourage you to begin a conversation with your student about continuing into one of the many music offerings we have at the high school level.

### **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 a lot of fun!
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.

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## Band and Choir

It's Solo Ensemble time in the band and choir rooms! We have several students preparing pieces to perform at either the Wednesday, March 6th or Saturday, March 9th festival. Freedom is hosting, so be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities! The students are doing great and we can't wait to hear them perform!

## 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](mailto:akazik@freedomschools.k12.wi.us)**

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## Middle/High Lunch Menu

Menu Subject to Change

February 2024

USDA is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Student Lunch \$3.00 Reduced Lunch \$0.40 Adult Lunch \$4.35 Extra Carton of Milk \$.30	The Foodservice Department welcomes your questions or comments. Please call 788-7950 ext. 3301		1 Popcorn Chicken OR Pizza Burger Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	2 Stuffed Crust Pizza OR Fish Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
5 Chicken Patty w/Mashed OR BBQ Rib Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	6 Nachos OR Chicken Wrap Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	7 Chicken Nuggets OR Sloppy Joe Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	8 Orange Chicken OR Hamburger Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	9 Pizza Boat OR Corn Dog Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
12 Mini Corn Dogs OR Turkey Club Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	13 Chicken Fajitas OR Tacos Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	14 Brunch for Lunch OR Pizza Pocket Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	15 Hot Dog Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	16 <b>No School</b>
19 <b>No School</b>	20 Nacho's OR Cheeseburger Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	21 Chicken Alfredo OR Corn Dog Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	22 Diced Chicken w/Mashed OR BBQ Rib Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	23 Fish Sandwich OR Stuffed Crust Pizza Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
26 Chicken Nuggets OR Hot Dog Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	27 Beef Tacos OR Chicken Burrito Bowl Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	28 Penne Pasta & Meatballs OR Ham & Cheese Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	29 Chicken Tenders OR Corn Dogs Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	A positive foodservice balance is required to participate A la Carte Items Rice Krispy Bar \$1.25 Muffin/Granola Bar \$0.75 Dbl Ch Oatmeal Bar \$0.75 MEGA Meal \$1.50 Water \$1.25 Snapple \$1.75