



**Freedom Middle School**

# in the middle

January 2023



Hello and welcome to the fifth 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:

Monday, Jan. 2	Classes resume
Monday, Jan. 9	MAPSS meeting 5:00 pm
Friday, Jan. 13	Quarter 2 ends
Monday, Jan. 16	No school; staff workday; Board meeting 6:30 pm
Friday, Jan. 20	School wide spelling bee
Monday, Jan. 23	National History Day showcase 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Tuesday, Jan. 24	National History Day judging 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

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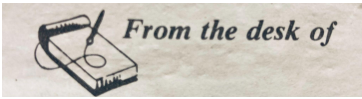
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## **Important Reminders:**

- ★ 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!*

*Happy New Year! January is a great time to pause and reflect on the successful completion of the previous year, and to set goals for 2023! Our goal of ensuring that all Freedom Middle School students become high school ready is part and parcel of every decision we make. If your students have individual goals that we can help come to fruition, please let us know.*

*I am continually impressed with our kids in the classroom, on the field/court of sport, and on stage. If you happened to see our holiday concerts or catch a basketball game recently, you know that we have great kids and dedicated staff. I encourage all parents and students to get involved in school activities. Spring sports are just around the corner. We are also always looking for parents to join our MAPSS group or pitch in as a coach. Please contact me if you're interested.*

*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 [gmethodner@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:gmethodner@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 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](mailto:jbins@freedomschools.k12.wi.us).  
Water the Bamboo! -JB



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## News from Sixth Grade

### Social Studies News

We are currently exploring Ancient Egypt including the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms, as well as the different Pharaohs in each kingdom. We are learning that the Egyptians worshiped different gods such as Re (The sun god), Hapi (The river god), and Osiris (The god of the underworld). The Egyptians used the process of mummification to preserve the bodies of their dead, especially the pharaohs. They believed that the pharaohs would have an after-life which explains the building of the great pyramids as tombs. The tombs stored many of the pharaoh's possessions, some of which were discovered by archaeologists in the "Valley of the Kings" where King Tut was discovered. We are also learning that Egyptian culture contributed many things to past and present cultures in the areas of mathematics, medicine, and the development of an early form of paper called papyrus.

### 6th Graders love reading!

The last few months, 6th graders worked very hard on selecting JUST RIGHT books--books of high interest. They also worked on building their stamina--being able to read and understand what they read for longer periods of time. Here we are in the library enjoying books we have selected. Thank you for encouraging your child to read at home also!



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## 7th grade

In seventh grade ELA, students will wrap up work with The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963. We will then move on to a unit regarding informative writing. We will continue our Word Work (weekly) and Patterns of Power grammar work (daily) as well as the monthly independent reading book project.

In science, we are investigating different forms of energies such as thermal, sound and chemical energy. We will be finishing this unit up by the end of quarter 2. Quarter 3 looks at weather and climate.



NHD work will continue in social studies focusing on exhibits. Exhibits will be set up on the evening of Jan. 23 with the community invited to attend. Exhibits will be judged on Jan. 24.

Seventh grade math students will be finishing up a unit on rational numbers and looking forward to starting algebraic reasoning in the new year.



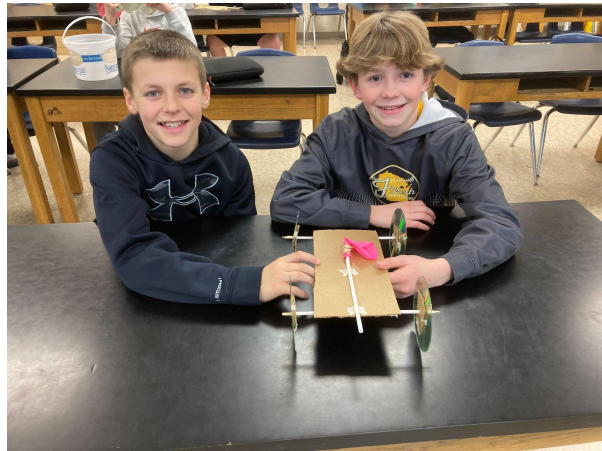
In December, students used their math skills in an escape room activity.

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During seventh grade Irish Hour, some students have spent time creating balloon-powered cars with Mr. Atwater. Here are some of the final products!





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## 8th grade

On December 9, 2022 the eighth grade took a field trip to the UWGB library and Riviera Lanes. The purpose of the field trip was for the students to learn research skills and complete research for their National History Day topic. The students spent part of the day at the library and part of the day at Riviera Lanes for a bowling field trip. Mr. VanRossum encourages you to continue to ask your child about their National History Day project. The final project for National History Day is due Friday, January 6, 2023. The school contest for National History Day will be January 23 and 24.



It's hard to believe that our second quarter is almost over. It was wonderful to connect with many of you for conferences in December. As always, feel free to email or call with any questions or concerns.

We'd like to wish everyone a happy holiday season. We hope you were able to reflect on the year, find time to enjoy family and friends, and rejuvenate for the year ahead. We appreciate all you do for your students and the Freedom community.

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## EnCore classes

### **Exploratory Music!**

We have been working hard in exploratory music, as the cold sets in and the snow starts to fall. The 8th graders are concluding their unit on guitar, while the 7th graders are concluding their unit on keyboard. What a blast we have had on both instruments! The 6th graders are into their World Music Drumming unit with only a week or so before we move on. I am excited to say that all of our grades will get the opportunity to work with the new handchimes that have been purchased for the newly formed HS Handbell Choir.

### **Spanish: Señora Zabel**

**Learning about Hispanic cultures is an important part of Spanish class. We do this through learning about famous people, answering cultural trivia questions, and listening to folktales. Listening to and viewing folktales helps us gain insight into other countries; and exploring information about the author and artwork can give us a unique perspective on the people and their way of life. Through these stories, we can see the beautiful diversity of people and have a better empathy and connection to other cultures.**

### **BAND**

It's almost concert time! The band students are working hard to prepare for their Winter Concert on Monday, December 19th at 5:30 PM in the fieldhouse. We are doing a special theme concert with all of the band students grades 6-12, featuring the book, "The Cheesehead Night Before Christmas." Come out and enjoy some holiday tunes before the Packer game!

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

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## Middle/High Lunch Menu

USDA is an equal opportunity provider & employer

January 2023					
Menu Subject to Change	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	Chicken Strips OR Mini Corn Dogs Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	3 Nachos OR Hamburger Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	4 Pizza OR Popcorn Chicken & Fries Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	5 Brunch for Lunch OR Sloppy Joe Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	6 Chicken Patty w/ Mashed OR Rib Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
9	Chicken Sandwich OR Ham & Cheese Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	10 Chicken Wrap OR Tacos Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	11 Penne Pasta & Meatballs OR Hot Dog Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	12 Diced Chicken w/Mashed OR Pizza Boat Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	13 Pasta Bake OR Chicken Nuggets Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
16	No School	17 Nacho's OR Cheeseburger Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	18 Popcorn Chicken OR BBQ Pork Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	19 Baked Potato Bar OR Rib Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	20 Fish Sandwich OR Chicken Patty w/Mashed Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
23	Chicken Patty Sandwich OR Pizza Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	24 Brunch for Lunch OR Sloppy Joe Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	25 Pizza Pocket OR Ham & Cheese Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	26 Chicken Nuggets OR Corn Dogs Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	27 Chicken Burrito Bowl OR Hot Dog Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
30	Spaghetti & Meatballs OR Rib Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	31 Tacos OR Chicken Tenders Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	Student Lunch \$3.00 Reduced Lunch \$0.40 Adult Lunch \$4.35 Extra Carton of Milk \$3.30	The Foodservice Department welcomes your questions or comments. Please call 788-7950 ext. 3301	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