



Freedom Middle School

in the middle

November 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!!!!

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Important Dates:

Friday, Nov. 3	12:30 student dismissal; PM staff inservice
Monday, Nov. 6	End of Quarter 1
Friday, Nov. 10	Veterans Day Program
Monday, Nov. 13	MAPSS meeting 5:00 pm
Monday, Nov. 20	Board meeting 6:30 pm
Wednesday, Nov. 22	No school; Thanksgiving break
Thursday, Nov. 23	No school; Thanksgiving break
Friday, Nov. 24	No school; Thanksgiving break

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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. Lunch runs from 12:00 - 12:30. If your student will be leaving during the lunch time please call the school ahead of time.

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Dr. Methner

Hello FMS Parents and Guardians!

You may have heard your children referring to "IRISH HOUR". Irish Hour is a time when all students have access to additional instruction from their core teachers. This is a time for reteaching, preteaching, targeted skill development, and enrichment.

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. I am proud of our staff who have jumped into Irish Hour with both feet!

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.



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Counselor's Corner - Mr. Jason Bins

Greetings Freedom Middle School Stakeholders and Welcome to the 2023-24 School Year!

A special welcome to our new students and families. As I enter my fourteenth year at Freedom Middle School, I continue to be amazed by the interconnectedness of the staff, students, and families in our school and the growth our students show during their time at Freedom Middle School. F.M.S. is truly an awesome place! I hope our new staff members, families, and students have a similar experience!

As for my role as school counselor, I am entering my fourth full year as Freedom Middle School Counselor. As your child's school counselor, my job is to support your child's social, emotions, academic, and behavioral needs. I truly love my job because I get to support all students at their individual level and based on their needs.

With this said, please let me know what I can do to support your child, as we start the school year, and as we navigate through the 2023-24 school year and your child's middle school years. Please do not hesitate to contact me with information or concerns which impact your child. These items can be kept confidential or in a limited scope to protect your child. I can be reached at (920) 788-7945 (x2288) or via email at jbins@freedomschools.k12.wi.us.

In closing, I leave you with the story of the "Chinese Bamboo Tree."

The Chinese Bamboo Tree

Like any plant, growth of the Chinese Bamboo Tree requires nurturing - water, fertile soil, sunshine. In its first year, we see no visible signs of activity. In the second year, again, no growth above the soil. The third, the fourth, still nothing. Our patience is tested and we begin to wonder if our efforts (caring, water, etc.) will ever be rewarded.

And finally in the fifth year - behold, a miracle! We experience growth. And what growth it is! The Chinese Bamboo Tree grows 80 feet in just six weeks!

This story is a prevalent part of my counseling office and a great microcosm for your child's middle school years. As your child enters (or continues) their middle school journey, remember to keep "Watering the Bamboo!" We will do the same at F.M.S. and I am confident that all of our students will grow and find their path! -JB



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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 or Email is akazik@freedomschools.k12.wi.us**

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NEWS from Sixth Grade

6th Grade Social Studies: We just finished learning about the Paleolithic and Neolithic Ages. The students learned how people went from being hunters and gatherers to herders and farmers. We will now be heading into the early river valley civilizations such as Mesopotamia and Babylon. We will learn about how people of that time lived, their family life, their system of government, and their great achievements that impacted people for hundreds of years, such as cuneiform and Hammurabi's Code. After that, the next stop will be Ancient Egypt!

6th Grade Science: 6th graders spent the last few days of nice weather by building and testing solar ovens. They were designed to help them understand how light rays interact with different mediums, and they got to enjoy a tasty treat in the process!



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NEWS from Seventh Grade

7th Grade ELA

In ELA, students will start the month of November by wrapping up the autobiography unit. Be sure to ask your student to look at the final draft in their Google Drive! After this, we'll be moving into our class novel: [The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963](#) in which we'll hone both reading and writing skills. Students will continue with independent reading: one book per month with a project at the end (to be worked on in class). Weekly work with Greek and Latin roots will continue as well.

7th Grade Math

7th grade math recently finished chapter one which focused on ratios and proportional reasoning. The pictures to the right show an activity the students did using a capture recapture technique to predict how many fish (gold fish) they had in their pond (bag).

We have moved into chapter 2 with a focus on percentages. Please ask your student if they have the supplies they need for math (red pen, pencil, and calculator).



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7th Grade Science

Greetings from 7th Grade Science. We are currently in our chemistry unit. IQWST calls this quarter long unit, “How can I make new stuff from old stuff?” We started out talking about matter, states of matter, substances and mixtures. We then moved on to discussing different properties of matter such as melting point, solubility and hardness. We used these properties of matter to develop several scientific principles which are really big ideas. We are just starting the next part of this unit, chemical reactions. Again, this unit will take us through the end of the first quarter.

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!!!

7th Grade Social Studies

In 7th grade history, students have learned about the first Americans and the way of life they created throughout the Americas. Students are now learning how and why the Europeans ended up in the Americas. They will also see how Europeans and Native Americans reacted to one another once the Europeans arrived.

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NEWS from Eighth Grade

On Tuesday, October 10th and Thursday, October 12, 8th grade students visited Tsyunhehkwá Farm in Oneida to learn about the importance of White Corn to the culture of the Oneida people. While there, students learned how to harvest and husk the white corn. They heard part of the creation story of the Oneida people and learned of many different uses for the white corn.



News from the Math Classroom: In Math 8, students have just finished Chapter 5, where they learned about the angles of triangles and different polygons and also how to find missing sides of right triangles. They now begin Chapter 6 where they will learn about transformations in the coordinate plane. Students will learn to translate, reflect, and rotate figures - generally speaking, they will slide, turn, and flip shapes. Algebra students have just finished Chapter 2 where they learned all about solving equations with one variable and will now begin Chapter 3 where they learn to graph equations with two variables.

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NEWS from Encore classes

Exploratory Music

The world is alive with music, and no where is that more true than down here in the music department. In the world of Exploratory Music, we are officially onto learning our first instruments! The 8th grade is just finishing learning how to restring and retune guitars and the 7th grade is well into learning the keyboard. Our 6th grade class is learning about instrument families and taking trips over to the band and choir rooms to learn more about instrument families and how they work. Lastly, we were able to purchase a few new tubano drums this year, so students have been spending some of their Friday's playing fun drumming games.

Exploratory Spanish

Spanish—Mrs. Zabel I'm so proud of the Middle School Spanish students and all of their hard work. So much was accomplished this pentemester with students learning about various Hispanic Cultures and engaging in many learning activities. They were successful in learning how to say how they are feeling using verb conjugation, creating conversations, playing number games and giving commands.....al I in Spanish.
¡Bravo!

Choir

The choir room is very busy right now with all grade levels working on preparing their holiday concert music as well as seventh and eighth grade preparing their Veteran's Day piece. In addition, I would like to congratulate seven of our students that will be representing our choir program at the Badger State Honor Choir performance on November 19. They will join other sixth through ninth grade choir students from local schools as they perform alongside world renowned Italian operatic tenor, Simone Liconti. They are putting in extra time to prepare their pieces and their hard work has been amazing! Congratulations Madison, Cesar, Leah, Kaylie, Khloe, Zayda, and Ainsley.

BAND

It's almost concert time! All of the band students are working hard to prepare for their Winter Concert! The 8th graders are also gearing up for the masquerade assembly at the elementary school and a couple of Christmas parades. They are doing an outstanding job and I couldn't be prouder of them!

The Winter Concert is at 7:00 PM in the Field House and features all Freedom Band Students.

We hope that you are able to make it to our Winter Concert on December 14th!

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Middle/High Lunch Menu

Menu Subject to Change

November 2023

USDA is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>As a reminder, there must funds available in the family foodservice account in order to purchase A la Carte items.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>1 Salisbury Steak OR Chicken Strips Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>2 Hot Dog OR Chicken Patty Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3 Ham or Turkey Sandwich Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>
<p>6 Chicken Patty OR Pizza Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>7 Tacos OR Pizza Burger Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>8 Chicken Nuggets OR Fish Sandwich Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>9 Spaghetti & Meatballs OR Corn Dog Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>10 Ham & Cheese Or Chilli Salad Bar Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk The 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month</p>
<p>13 Meatball Sub OR Pizza Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>14 Nacho's OR Chicken Burrito Bowl Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>15 Rib Sandwich OR Mini Corn Dogs Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>16 Chicken Alfredo OR Chicken Wrap Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>17 Hamburger OR Chicken Patty/Mashed Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>
<p>20 Sloppy Joe OR Chicken Strips Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>21 Tacos OR Hot Turkey on a Bun Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>22 No School</p>	<p>23 No School</p>	<p>24 The Foodservice Department welcomes your questions or comments. Please call 788-7950 ext. 3301 No School</p>
<p>27 Chicken Nuggets OR Rib Sandwich Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>28 Nacho's OR Chicken Fajita Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>29 Mini Corn Dogs OR Sub Sandwich Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	<p>30 Diced Chicken over Mashed Asian Meatballs w/Rice Fruit Vegetable Choice of Milk</p>	