



**Freedom Middle School**

# in the middle

October 2023



Hello and welcome to the first 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, Oct. 2	MAPSS Save Around Book fundraiser begins; Babysitting Clinic 3:30 - 6:30 pm Rm. 114
Tuesday, Oct. 3	Babysitting Clinic 3:30 - 6:30 pm Rm. 114
Monday, Oct. 9	MAPSS meeting 5:00 pm
Friday, Oct. 13	Save Around Book fundraiser ends
Monday, Oct. 16	Board meeting 6:30 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 17	Parent/teacher conferences 4:00 - 6:30 pm
Wednesday, Oct. 18	Parent/teacher conferences 4:00 - 6:30 pm
Friday, Oct. 20	MAPSS sponsored Halloween Dance 3:30 - 5:00 pm cafeteria
Monday, Oct. 23	Pentemester 1 classes end
Tuesday, Oct. 24	Pentemester 2 classes begin
Thursday, Oct. 26	12:30 student dismissal; PM staff inservice
Friday, Oct. 27	No school Conference 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**

September came and went in a flurry of activity! I am very proud of our students and staff who have done a great job of "getting back to normal" routines and procedures at our middle school.

In other news, we are excited to offer an after-school study opportunity for all FMS students in the Library on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 PM. Students can work on homework, and receive support in math and English content during this time. We ask that parents pick up their students promptly at 4:30 PM if they choose to attend this new resource.

I have had a lot of questions from students and parents about social media this month. Over the years, I have found that many parents are frustrated with their student's online activities. I am working with our counselor, Mr. Bins, and other staff to establish resources for parents and to provide guidance to our students regarding digital literacy.

I encourage parents and guardians to reach out to me or to teachers with any questions or concerns.

For those of you who are new to our school district, the middle school has a parent organization called MAPSS (Middle School Association of Parents, Students, and Staff). This group meets monthly and focuses on student and parent voices, and facilitates many great fundraisers and activities at FMS. If you are interested in joining this group, please email me at [gmethod@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:gmethod@freedomschools.k12.wi.us)

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

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## **Battle of the Books Middle School Division**

The statewide Battle of the Books' program is designed to promote a love of reading among our students. It encourages students to deeply read a variety of books and remember information about the plots, characters, themes and settings of the books.

Advisor: Mrs Zabel [nzabel@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:nzabel@freedomschools.k12.wi.us)

### *What?*

- 20 book list for students to read from October through mid January
- Students work in teams of 3 or 4.
- A Moodle site for students & advisors to practice and share ideas
- A culminating statewide, online “battle” to find the teams who know the books the best (School-wide and State Competitions are held on-site in February)

### *Why?*

- To build love of reading
- To encourage students to read books they might not have chosen
- To engage students in an academic team competition
- To have fun!

### *When?*

- Information Meeting and Sign-Up: Tuesday, October 3 from 3:30 - 4:30 at the Middle School Library
- Practice sessions are after school located in the MS Library

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## NEWS from Sixth Grade

Welcome to Freedom Middle School, 6th Graders! Lots of pats right on the ol' backs for these students. Way to get acclimated quickly to middle school! We know our way around now. We have been practicing and getting pretty good with our lockers.

In Science, 6th graders will begin building their solar ovens on **Monday, Sept. 25th** to test how light interacts with different mediums. They are excited to get these outside and make yummy s'mores in the process!

In Social Studies, the 6th graders are studying geography which includes learning how to locate places using latitude and longitude, the six elements of geography, how human beings impact the environment, and how the environment impacts human beings.

In ELA, we have been focusing on finding good fit books, understanding a purpose for our reading along with genres.

Please contact your child's 1st hour teacher with any general questions about Sixth Grade. If you have questions about a specific class, contact that subject teacher. Thank you.

Terri Erickson, ELA Teacher  
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Andy Fellingner, Social Studies Teacher  
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Margo Fox, ELA Teacher  
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Adam Fox, Math Teacher  
[afox@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:afox@freedomschools.k12.wi.us)

Andrew Gibbons, Resource Teacher  
[agibbons@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:agibbons@freedomschools.k12.wi.us)



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## NEWS from Seventh Grade

### ELA - Mrs. Juelich and Mrs. Skiba

In ELA, we will finish up our work with Collection 1 (textbook unit) to begin the month of October. Students will be working their way towards mastery with literary terms. Once we wrap up that unit, students will move into a writing unit: the autobiography. The writing process will bring students from planning through a final draft with seven paragraphs spanning from their past into their future. Weekly root work, grammar work via Patterns of Power, and a monthly book project will continue as well.

### Social Studies - Mr. LeBrun

Seventh grade Social Studies is off to a great start this year!! We are beginning with some basic geography review lessons and then moving into the first peoples that migrated into the Americas. Students will learn how the environment helped shape the culture of these early Native Americans.

**Science** - Greetings parents. My name is Ryan Atwater and I am the 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher. This is my 21st year here at Freedom and my 18<sup>h</sup> teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We are off to a great start here in science.

We are continuing to use IQWST for our science class. There is no text book for IQWST. It is completely online through their portal. At each of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, students will have an in-depth unit of chemistry, earth science, physical science and biology. We are currently in Chemistry.

Logging in and viewing assignments in IQWST happens through Google Classroom. Students will need to be signed in to their Google school account first. Make sure their icon for the gmail is in the upper right hand corner and that nobody else is logged in behind that window. Then they should open up Google Classroom and go to Classwork to view the assignments for IQWST.

I'm looking forward to a successful year with your children. Please feel free to email me at [ratwater@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:ratwater@freedomschools.k12.wi.us) with any concerns. Place your child's name in the subject line of the email. Also, please check Skyward, the online grading program often to track your students' progress. All grades will be handled through Skyward even though students will be submitting their assignments through IQWST or Google Classroom.

Thank you for all of your efforts for a successful school year at home.

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## Math - Mrs. Runyon

Seventh grade math is off to a great start and we are working our way through proportional relationships. The second chapter will be focused on percentages. This is a great time to talk to your students about discounts, sales tax, and tips. It is information we use daily in the real world and students love talking about shopping. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Learning how to work as a team in math:



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Seventh graders visited the  
Ledgeview Caves on September 21  
and 22.



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## NEWS from Eighth Grade

The 8th grade will once again be going to the White Corn Harvest on the afternoon of October 10th and 12th. At this event the students will learn about the history and cultural significance of the corn harvest in local Native American culture. Additionally, students will participate in actually harvesting and processing corn. Due to the hands-on nature of this event they can only accommodate half of the students at a time so we have split the grade in two groups. You can expect to see additional information coming home soon about this.

In science we've gotten off to a rock solid start in our Earth Science unit. We've delved into the depths of the age of the ocean floor, evaluated Wegner's evidence of continental drift, and modeled plate tectonics in class. It all promises to be an Earth shattering experience.



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## **NEWS from Encore classes**

### **Exploratory Music:**

Greetings from the land of Exploratory Music! The start of the year is always an exciting one for us as we start with all of the grade levels playing with guitars, drums, and keyboards. As September turns to October, we will be moving into a more focused look at instruments including maintenance, tuning, and performing!

### **BAND & CHOIR**

The year is off to a great start in all of band and choir classes! All groups are singing and playing and having a fun time learning their new music. We look forward to performing for you at our upcoming concerts in December!

“Willy Wonka, JR.” is this year’s middle school musical. We encourage all students to come and audition on October 4th or 5th. Sign-ups are on the musical bulletin board.

### **Exploratory Spanish**

Spanish- Mrs. Zabel Hola..... Middle School Spanish is off to a GREAT start! Students can ask and answer basic questions such as How are you? Where are you from? What is your name? How old are you? They are working hard on learning numbers, basic commands and vocabulary. Even though Spanish may sound like a lot of work, we also have a lot of fun. Not only are students working hard at greetings and reviewing concepts, but they are also learning about different Hispanic cultures. Students will learn about the Day of the Dead and will research the country of choice for our Flag Project. Our time is also filled with group activities, hands-on learning, competitions, trivia, and games.

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## **Exploratory Agriculture:**

This year we are excited to welcome a new face to the agriculture department, Ms. Danielle Heenan! Ms. Heenan will be teaching 7th grade ag while Mrs. Heezen will continue to teach 8th grade ag. This year is the second year we are offering FFA membership for Middle School students; students can find membership forms in Mrs. Heezen's room! "FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success."

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## Middle/High Lunch Menu

October 2023

USDA is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Menu Subject to Change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Chicken Strips OR 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 Sloppy Joe Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	5 Brunch for Lunch OR Ham & Cheese 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 Mini Corn Dogs 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 Pizza Boat OR Alfredo Flatbread Pizza Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	12 Diced Chicken w/Mashed OR Fish & Fries Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	13 Beef Enchilada OR Chicken Nuggets Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
16 Chicken Patty Sandwich OR Pizza Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	17 Nacho's OR Cheeseburger Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	18 Sweet & Sour Chicken OR Sloppy Joe Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	19 Brunch for Lunch OR Sub 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 Spaghetti & Meatballs OR Corn Dog Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	24 Tacos OR Chicken Wrap Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	25 Mac & Cheese Or Hot Dog Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	26 Sub Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	27 No School
30 Brunch for Lunch OR Ham & Cheese Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	31 Nacho's OR Cheeseburger 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	The Foodservice Department welcomes your questions or comments. Please call 788-7950 ext. 3301	Student Lunch \$3.00 Reduced Lunch \$0.40 Adult Lunch \$4.35 Extra Carton of Milk \$ .30