

IRISH REFLECTIONS



December 2015/January 2016



From the Principal

Happy Holidays!

This is an important academic time for your child. We are half-way through the second quarter and this means semester grades are upon us. I encourage you to check your child's grades on-line frequently. To do so, go to the district web site and click on "*family and student access – on line grading*". Final examinations will be held on January 20, and 21. Encourage your child to prepare for his/her final examinations and get plenty of rest the night before.

The students in the high school are busy with seasonal volunteering projects. The Caring Tree, located in the lobby every day before school offers students and staff alike an opportunity to help those less fortunate during the holiday season. The staff also runs the adopt-a-family campaign and student council runs the coats for kids program.

We will have an early release on the 23rd of December and then return to school on Wednesday, January 4th, 2016.

From all of us at FHS, have an enjoyable Winter Break!

Kurt Erickson
Principal

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

WINTER BREAK

December 23rd – Early Release

December 24th – January 3rd

SEMESTER ENDS

January 21st

RECORDS DAY/NO SCHOOL

January 22nd

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Mid Quarter

Wednesday, February 24th 4:00-8:30pm

12:30PM RELEASE/TEACHER INSERVICE

February 25th

NO SCHOOL

February 26th

END OF THIRD QUARTER

March 26th

NO SCHOOL

March 24th

EASTER BREAK

March 25th through March 30th

PROM

April 30th



Perfect Attendance 1st Quarter

We would like to recognize the following students who had perfect attendance through the first quarter:

Alex Balthazor, Vitaly Gerasimchuk, Bradly Belonger, Alexa Gruber, Dakota Brockman, James Heminger, April Bradael, Jade Lakatos, Michelle Cromer, Blake Kirby, Mindy Cromer, Samantha Merkel, Carlee Crozier, Makenna Miskoviak, Katie Duffy, Max Oskey, Sara Duffy, Rayna Stauff, Brooke Garrett, Kong Thao, Jared Gartzke, Jordan Zwiers, Alex Garvey.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Lost and Found

Watch for the lost and found to be displayed in the high school lobby until Christmas break. Anything that is not claimed by Christmas break will be donated to the Salvation Army. If you are missing anything from the beginning of the year until now you might want to check it out!



2015-2016 Semester Exam Schedule

Wednesday January 21

8:00-9:29 1st hour
 9:25-9:44 Break/Snack (lobby)
 Announcement at 9:35
 9:40-11:08 3rd hour
 11:08-11:38 11/12 Study (report to 4th hour)
 11:08-11:38 9/10 Lunch
 11:42-12:12 9/10 Study (report to 4th hour)
 11:42-12:12 11/12 Lunch
 12:16-1:40 5th hour
 1:40-1:55 Break/snack
 Announcement @ 1:51
 1:55-3:21 7th hour

Thursday January 22

8:00-9:25 2nd hour
 9:25-9:40 Break/Snack
 Announcement @ 9:35
 9:40-11:04 6th hour
 11:04-11:15 Break/Snack
 Announcement @ 11:10
 11:15-12:39* 8th hour
 12:39-1:09 Lunch
 1:09-3:21 Make-up/Correcting

*STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 12:39 OR 3:07 IF STAYING FOR BUS

*If student has 8th hour study hall, they can be released at 11:04am

**Lunch is not mandatory on Thursday

Co-Curricular Review

If any parents are interested in helping review our co-curricular code please contact Ms. Olson at 788-7940 ext 1354 or email her at lolson@freedomschools.k12.wi.us



5 Myths About Technology Education

There are a few myths or common misconceptions about technology education classes, teachers, and facilities that I believe need some clarification. This is not only a problem within Freedom High School, but is common in others schools as well. There are students and parents in our school that have no idea how valuable they can be! Here are a few of the most popular myths and how incorrect they are in our school.

1. **“Im going to college so I don’t need to take any tech ed classes.”** There are a wide variety of technology education courses offered at FHS. All of these courses teach skills and principles required at higher levels of education. Common themes in tech ed courses are things like problem solving, engineering, design and most of all common sense. Many students that attend four year universities and tech schools after graduation enter them without a solid background in these topics. Students also gain valuable life skills in tech ed classes. Classes like basic home maintenance teach students how to care for their homes and perform basic maintenance and repair tasks that all homes require. Students can gain an understanding of vehicle maintenance and repair in an automotive class. Even if a person never turns a wrench in their life, understanding how a vehicle operates, along with what it takes to repair and maintain our cars can save a lot of time, money and frustration at the repair shop. Our technology classes will prepare each student for the “real world” while teaching skills and principles that will benefit them in the future.

2. **“Our tech ed programs are old fashioned and do not apply today.”** The technology education courses at FHS have been around for a long time, over the years some things have changed and some have stayed the same. The automotive program has invested in many tools and equipment in the past 5 years to stay current with technology and common industry practices. The materials, tools and equipment used are equal or in some cases superior to most repair shops. Cars today are high tech and students have the opportunity to learn about these systems, diagnose problems, repair and maintain their own vehicles and a variety of others. The tech ed program also offers classes like tech drafting and CAD utilizing new computers and live updated software in conjunction with pieces of new equipment such as the laser engraver and 3D printer/rapid prototyper. This type of programming and mechanical design can also be used with our new CNC machine. Even more traditional courses like welding have been updated with new equipment that are high quality and up to date with current technology, industry trends, and fabrication processes.

3. **“Tech ed classes are not for girls.”** Every semester girls sign up for different tech ed courses for the same reasons as boys. They find an interest in a class or want to learn more about a topic to prepare them for life after high school. Girls need and deserve the same education as boys on these topics. Girls become engineers, managers, designers, technicians and leaders in other fields requiring a technical background. You will not get dirty, wreck your clothes, be embarrassed or left out. Prime example: Liz Moore, 2011 graduate, took multiple tech classes and ultimately competed in the SkillsUSA collision repair contest winning at state and becoming the highest finishing female in the nation (10th) earning her national recognition and an award from the Women’s Industry Network along with a full scholarship to Universal Technical Institute. Girls need technical skill and background to prepare them for the future and they can find success in these classes. There is even a Senior Survival class geared specifically towards girls who would like a safe, simple, and enjoyable look into tech ed offerings, but don’t feel like you have to wait till then!

4. **“The names/topics of tech classes don’t interest me.”** You will never know until you try! The name of a class or the idea of welding, wood working, or working on cars might not sound like your cup of tea. You might however be surprised how fun and interesting one of those topics might be. If you feel bored in school and want to do something different try a tech ed class. You will be challenged to think outside the box in every class and experience and see new things that are guaranteed to benefit you in the future. Plus tech classes are fun, create cool projects, build cool cars, and often go on cool field trips!

5. **“Tech ed classes are in dark, dirty, weird looking rooms.”** It sounds funny, but people do actually think that. The truth is the technology wing is the newest part the building and the lights do work! The metal shop has been painted and received a number of updates and new machines. The tech class rooms have brand new computers with web based live updates and the auto shop has been updated by adding tools and equipment each year. The FHS technology department in many ways rivals that of many high schools and even some tech schools. The tools, equipment, and facilities at FHS are ready and waiting for you!



Varsity Dance Team

Congratulations to the Varsity Dance Team for taking 1st place in both their D4 Pom and D2 Kick performances at the Ashwaubenon Dance Invite on Dec. 5. Upcoming competitions that you can see your dance team perform at are our very own Freedom Classic on January 9, as well as the Kaukauna Classic on January 16. The team also performs at various basketball games throughout the season so come on down and enjoy the show! Watch for tryout information later this school year!



REGISTRATION for 2015-2016 School Year

FHS students will be completing on-line registration on Monday, January 11th. The school counselors have conducted consultations with students regarding schedule choices and four-year plans during the month of December. We encourage our students to communicate their class choices and four year plans with their parents/families. Parent signatures are required on the registration sheets.



Notes to Parents of College-Bound Seniors

Students as self-advocates: Always encourage students to do their own writing and talking. If students want to stand out, they should demonstrate an ability to speak for themselves. All too often parents are attempting to ask questions on behalf of their kids. ... We (admissions counselors) are looking for independent thinkers who will make a difference on our campus, and the best way for applicants to showcase this ability is to call the office themselves and be active in the process. The same goes for their written communications via application materials: with a strong voice, they should write a statement that only they—with their unique experiences—could write.

Admission is Tentative and can be rescinded: When high school seniors are admitted to a college, they are typically offered admission on a tentative basis. All students offered admission are expected to maintain their high school academic record that was submitted at the time of admission. Students altering course schedules and/or failing high school courses after receiving tentative admission are instructed to contact the admissions office immediately for solutions to avoid the rescinding of your admission.

Postponement/wait listed: Senior year performance is the most significant factor in determining who gets admitted after being postponed or from a slot on the extended waiting list. Both rigor of course work and grades are paramount. Frequently, postponement of the admission decision for a particular student because of conflicting impressions of how that student will succeed academically here (on campus), and senior year grades are requested before committing to a decision. Admission by postponement or the wait list is still competitive. Students need to remain focused on their performance, but also continue to seek placement at other universities.

Financial Aid: FAFSA

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students and one parent must get their own confidential PIN, “Personal Identification Number,” to apply for your Free Student Aid if the student is a dependent. The PIN is used to electronically sign the FAFSA.

www.fafsa.ed.gov

College Goal Wisconsin

Sometimes applying for Financial Aid can feel like a daunting experience. There is an awesome event called “College Goal Wisconsin” that is designed to help you with this process. The event takes place in late February and is free. There are also scholarship opportunities for students in attendance. Please refer to our website or the link below to register. <http://www.collegegoalwi.org/>



Freedom ACT Review Course

A Course will be offered to all Freedom High School Juniors during the week of Sunday, February 14th through Thursday, February 18th. A practice test will be given from noon-5:00 p.m. on Sunday and each section of the ACT will be presented and reviewed after school from 3:30-4:30 p.m. each school day (Monday through Friday.) Registration information will be sent out and available on-line during the 2nd week of January.



Junior Planning Conferences

Junior Planning (SPEC's-Student Parent Education and Career) Conferencing has wrapped. We enjoyed connecting with parents and students as we begin to prepare for transition into life after high school. Please remember the four items that students who are planning on pursuing higher education should be doing:

1. Self Advocating and keeping up on academics (Checking grades on Skyward)
2. Preparing and registering for the ACT
3. Campus Visits-be sure you are visiting campuses you are interested in applying to, *this year!*
4. Continue to utilize our school counseling office as a resource. We are happy to help with questions you have!

Exploring Technical College Options and Programs

On Tuesday, February 19th, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. there will be a College Preview Night at which students can learn more about the programs at **Fox Valley Technical College** and discover what college life is all about. If this evening doesn't work, you can also attend a "Discovery Day" session in which a tour and program information is provided. You can register on-line at www.fvtc.edu/discover

On Tuesday, February 23rd, our students can attend "Campus Career Days" at **Northeast Wisconsin Technical College**. Again, this is a great opportunity to explore the programs this college offers and learn more about the campus. Please visit the website below for more information.

<http://www.nwtc.edu/academics/youth/middleandhighschool/Pages/CampusCareerDays.aspx>





In loving memory of
Riviera Lynne Konen

The Freedom Area School District is participating
in the 10th Annual "River of Hope" Drive
for UW American Family Children's Hospital
in Madison on December 29, 2015.



(Riviera is Mason, Hunter, and Sawyer Wiese's (Freedom Students) cousin.)

Please have all donations to the collection boxes at Freedom Elementary School, Freedom Middle School , or Freedom High School **before Monday, December 21, 2015**. River of Hope's mission is to keep Riviera's memory alive and to continue offer hope for all children who are fighting for their lives and who will be spending Christmas in the hospital. It is Riviera's legacy to bring smiles to children's faces as much as she brought to everyone around her. Please spread the word. Last year the Konen Family delivered over 2,000 gifts to Oncology, Pediatric ICU, Day Treatment, Sedation Clinic, and the Child Life Program.

Visit: <http://riverofhopeforkids.blogspot.com> or **Team River of Hope** on Facebook.

NEW items needed: Books, Kohls Cares for Kids stuffed animals and book sets, quilts, fleece tie blankets, toys for varying ages: **infant–age 18**, Newly released DVDs including: Disney/Pixar/Dreamworks and PG-13 , school-aged and teen board games, Lego sets, hand held games, reusable wall decals for all ages, Fisher Price Panda Rollerball rattles , infant crib mirrors, mobiles, and crib toys(all plastic), floor playmats for infants, board books for infants, texture/sensory toys, blank journals and sketch books, and \$10.00 gift cards for Target, Best Buy, and iTunes needed for teen patients.

Treasure Box Items: Matchbox cars, Barbies, Dinosaurs, Superhero Action Figures, My Little Ponies, Play Doh, balls, fingernail polish and nail decals, bubbles, hair accessories, fun design band aids.

Arts and Craft/Child Life items: Crayola Crayons, Markers, and Colored Pencils, Coloring books, Glitter Glue pens, Tulip Tie Dye Kits, t-shirts(Men's white crew neck of all sizes), Model Magic, Canvas Panels, Stickers, small craft kits, jewelry making kits, Do-a-Dot Markers, play animals, play food, wedding bubbles, and travel sized toiletries.

Together we can light up faces of children! Cherish Every Moment!