

# Freedom Middle School



## FROM THE MIDDLE

Mr. Ken Fisher, Principal

Phone 788-7945

May/June 2017

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**May 1 MAPSS Meeting; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation**  
**May 2 STAR Math**  
**May 3 STAR Reading testing**  
**May 5 Early Release 12:30 pm; PM Staff Inservice**  
**May 8 MS/HS Band Concert**  
**May 15 Choir Concert; Board Meeting**  
**May 16 Principal's Pen Breakfast**  
**May 23 Work Completion Day**  
**May 24 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Miller Park Fieldtrip**  
**May 29 No School Memorial Day**  
**May 30 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition Night**  
**May 31 Bay Beach Fieldtrip**  
**June 1 Last Student Day 12:30 pm Dismissal; Saturday School**  
**June 12 Summer School Begins**

### **FROM THE PRINCIPAL MR. FISHER**

#### **HELLO AND WELCOME FUTURE FMS 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**

I am including the current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents/guardians in the final newsletter of the year so that you can begin the process of transition from Freedom Elementary School to Freedom Middle School. Even though things will be different at the middle school we will do our best to help students and parents/guardians adjust to a new

schedule and daily routine. Registration will be held on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-7:00pm and Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am-5:00pm. Online registration can be completed from the convenience of your home but FASD staff will be here to assist you in the high school lobby/computer labs if you need assistance. All students will need to be here to have an ID photo taken even if the online portion of registration is completed at home. On both Registration Days incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents can meet a group of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and our MS guidance counselor (Mrs. Kielpikowski) in the MS lobby to assist you with lockers and a guided tour of our facilities. Middle School Open House will be held on Tuesday, August 29, 2017 from 6:00pm-7:30pm. The Open House will begin with a general session in the field house starting at 6:00pm, please be on time! If you have any questions or concerns between now and the start of next year, please feel free to stop in, email, or phone me at your convenience, my contact information is; Ken Fisher (MS Principal) Office (920-788-7945 Ex. 2309) Cell (920-716-7558), Email; [kfisher@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:kfisher@freedomschools.k12.wi.us).

## MIDDLE YEARS

This monthly publication contains many useful suggestions that assist and support the young adolescent as they navigate through the challenging waters of middle level education! As I read through each monthly issue, I wish I could have known about this publication when my kids were growing up! Please take a few moments to read the articles, I am sure you will find something useful and applicable!

## TEEN FOOD & FITNESS

Fitness and nutrition are so important to the developing adolescent and I encourage the entire family to discuss these monthly articles. You will be able to shop together as a family to satisfy an adolescent appetite in a healthy manner and involve everyone in family fitness activities all through the year!



## DRESS CODE FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL 2017-2018

It is very important for all current and future middle school families to receive the dress code for the upcoming year. I wanted to give families a chance to see the dress code before you start your school shopping for next year. The dress code is for the most part self explanatory but if you have any questions prior to making purchases, don't hesitate to call for clarification.

## FMS 2017-2018 Dress Code



No No Yes Yes Yes

State statute mandates that student's apparel be appropriate, decent and not offensive. All students are expected to dress and groom themselves neatly in clothes that are suitable for school activities. Freedom Middle School students are prohibited from wearing clothing or attire that, in the opinion of school authorities, is contrary to limits imposed related to health, safety, cleanliness, distractions, indecency, or offensiveness as defined by Wisconsin Statutes 120.13(1). Student dress or attire must conform to the following minimum standards:

- Headgear, heavy coats and gloves must be removed at the student's locker. All such items may not be worn in the building during school hours
- Students must wear shoes/appropriate footwear.
- No tank tops of any type or style; no backless/strapless or spaghetti strap garments will be permitted. Shoulders must be covered. Cap sleeves are fine; see-through, and swim attire are also prohibited. Cleavage exposure and midriff should be concealed at all times.
- Shorts, skirts, and dresses must not be too short or too tight. Mid thigh or longer is appropriate.
- No garment may advertise or promote alcohol, tobacco products, or other drugs by name or logo. No

messages or symbols that include profanity, weapons, violent or sexual language/actions or considered to be offensive are allowed.

- No attire with a gang related purpose is allowed (no bandanas). Chain links and spiked collars are not allowed.
- Underwear exposed or worn outerwear is unacceptable.
- Hoods must be **DOWN** at all times.

Students who do not comply will be subject to the following consequences:

**First offense** – Student will be given the chance to change clothes or turn shirts inside out, etc. A parent/guardian contact will be made and the parent /guardian will have the option to bring a change of clothing.

**Repeat offenses** – May result in out of school suspension and further consequences

### **WE NEED MAPSS STUDENT AND PARENT REPS**

Each year MAPSS (Middle School Association for Parents, Students & Staff) tries to fill committee positions that include parent and student representation. Since the formation of this middle school parent group in 2003, MAPSS has been instrumental in supporting social and educational activities at Freedom Middle School. Through our monthly meetings and events, this group helps bridge the gap between home and school. I am looking for 2 student reps and two parent reps at each grade level (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>) for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. You can visit our district website at [www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us](http://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us), click on the middle school home page, select clubs and organizations and click on MAPSS student rep to download a parent or student nomination form. I will make a request for members next fall but I would like to know

in advance if you are interested! Parent and student representation at all grade levels is very important to the success of this organization!

### **MUSIC IN THE MIDDLE**

Please support our middle school music programs at their spring concerts! The middle school band concert will be held in the field house on Monday, May 8, 2017 beginning at 7:00pm. Mark your calendar for the final middle school concert of the year as our choir students perform for you on Monday, May 15, 2017 beginning at 7:00pm; this concert will also be held in the field house. Thank you for your past support and I look forward to seeing you at the spring concert series!

### **NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**

Please take a moment from your busy schedule to recognize your child's teacher in your own special way! Our middle school staff is dedicated to improving the quality of education for every child and the week of April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 6<sup>th</sup> is a perfect time to say thanks! MAPSS will be sponsoring a special luncheon for the MS staff on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> in appreciation for everything our teachers do for our students here at FMS!

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE RECOGNITION NIGHT**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and staff would like to invite all 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents/guardians and their families to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition Night 2017. This event will take place in the field house on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 beginning at 6:30pm. Students will need to be in the cafeteria no later than 6:00pm on that evening so that we can line up and prepare for this special celebration. Students are

asked to dress for the occasion in casual or semi-formal attire! Boys typically wear a dress shirt & slacks (some wear a tie) and dresses are the norm for girls. Our school dress code will be enforced so please dress appropriately and respectfully! You will soon receive a request from the middle school office asking for the number of family members attending; we look forward to seeing you at this memorable event!



### **SUMMER SCHOOL 2017**

We are once again offering many exciting summer school classes for your child that focus on enrichment and academic support. Summer school keeps the learning process active and helps students enhance their study skills over the summer months. Our current enrollment numbers are looking good and I encourage all parents to consider summer school opportunities for your child; what a great way extend learning until we meet again in the fall. If you have any questions regarding summer school online registration or fee payment please contact the FMS or FES office.

### **REGISTRATION 2017**

Please mark your calendar for the fall registration for all FASD students grades K-12. We will hold registration in the Freedom High School lobby on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> (1:00pm-7:00pm), and

Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> (8:00am-5:00pm). Computer access will be available to assist you in completing the online registration process. Students will receive their schedule, locker, assignment when they register online. Students can stop in the MS office on either registration day for their locker combination. Parents/guardians are reminded that students will have a student ID photo taken at registration and they are encouraged to dress appropriately.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

I am looking forward to starting off the new year together as a middle school family at the Middle School Open House to be held at FMS on Tuesday, August 29, 2017. This program will begin promptly at 6:00pm with an informational meeting in the field house. A complete agenda for the evening events will be sent to you before the end of the current school year so that you can plan accordingly.



### **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

#### **Mr. Fellingner**

We learned a lot about the Roman Empire and what causes led to its decline. The empire became weakened from political problems, economic problems, and attacks from foreign armies. Modern day government, laws, and architecture have all been influenced by the Roman Empire. Now we are going to take a break from the

timeline and travel far into the future to the time of World War I and World War II which will compliment what will take place in ELA. The world wars were a pivotal time in history when the concerns of other countries affected our own. The world became a much smaller place as countries could no longer isolate themselves from what was happening in the world around them. We will study the aspects of World War One including trench warfare techniques, advancement of weapons on the ground, in the sea, and in the air. We will learn about the events of what led up to World War One and how the result of the war laid the groundwork for the cause of World War Two. After we learn about the World Wars, we will slide back to the middle ages and learn about knights, kingdoms, and castles!

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

**Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Wruck**



Welcome May! We are finishing up our Poetry Unit and will soon start our next class novel Number the Stars. This book study will be coordinated with Social Studies. Students will be learning about the setting and how important the time period is to this particular story. We are also going to take some time to focus on reading strategies/skills along our journey with this class novel. You can help your reader by asking them about Number the Stars at home. They will have some reading, activities, and Reading Response writing that they will need to do at home with this novel.

We continue to study how words work with more Greek/Latin Roots activity packets and assessments this month.

Thank you for helping your 6<sup>th</sup> grader be all he or she can be as a reader and writer this year. We look forward to a very productive last month of school with these great kids!

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH

**Mr. Reed**



I would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone in the community for being so supportive through this interesting spring for my family and myself. It is such a blessing to be a part of such a caring community! In 6th grade math we are putting the finishing touches on our unit on rates, ratios, percents and unit conversion. We also recently worked on our Wisconsin Forward Exam state testing. The students did a nice job working through the test and testing process.

During the final weeks of school we will be working on creating and reading diagrams, charts, and graphs. We will also begin discussing negative numbers and using them in the coordinate plane. The final Math STAR Testing date will be on Monday, May 1st. 7th grade is just around the corner!





## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE

Mr. Runyon



Above students used the Pocket Labs purchased by MAPPS to test ideas on how to make car accidents safer. The Pocket Labs connect to the Chrome Books and graph acceleration and other scientific data.

We have now wrapped up an extensive look at force and motion. The students have been immersed in a world of formulas, physics, and basic understandings of the world around them. We have surveyed Newton's Laws, gotten some traction with friction, and accelerated toward the finish line. The students have learned to solve daunting problems along the way, even overcoming the pull of gravity.

It's hard to believe we are already to May! The weather finally seems to have shifted and with it many of us have shifted to thoughts of summer. Unfortunately, for many students this means that they aren't always fully focused on school. Let's all do our best to finish up the school year strong. We have transitioned to our study of electricity and magnetism. This will provide for an exciting, challenging, and yes shocking end to our year.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Mrs. Juelich, Mrs. Lingnofski and Ms. Gardner

It really is hard to believe that the end of the school year is upon us. As we work through fourth quarter, in the language portion of the block, we will be reviewing the grammar and usage concepts covered throughout the year. Students have kept printed notes in a three-ring-binder organized by category. This binder will be used not only for student review in May but will follow them to eighth grade for review of these concepts next year. Students will show their knowledge of these concepts in the Island Project. By the time you get this newsletter, a number of you will already have signed off for your student to work with a partner or group. After the two planning days and the first work day, students will be assigned a number of grammatical/usage concepts to put into their writing for the project and check in with the teacher daily. This will end up being a separate formal assessment grade from the final Island Project.

Once the Island Project is complete, students will do work with analogies, denotation, and connotation. Finally, students will complete a mediation of their language portfolio. This asks them to review the writing they've done throughout the year and list their strengths and weaknesses as the year comes to a close.

The final book project of the year is due on May 1st. Students are not required to have an AR/independent reading book for the month of May. As we work with the Bar Code Tattoo novel in class, students may be assigned outside reading due to the fact they are not required to read 20 minutes per night independently during the month. Like the other novels we have done, the Bar Code Tattoo unit involves comprehension

questions, class discussions, and some small writing assignments as well as some vocabulary work. This book has been very much enjoyed by students the past few years, and we're hoping for the same this year.

Mrs. Juelich's class will be working with a student teacher this quarter: Ms. Nicole Gardner:

Hello! My name is Miss Gardner, and I am a student teacher from St. Norbert College. I am a senior and will be graduating from the St. Norbert Teacher Education Program this month. I am majoring in Middle Childhood - Early Adolescence Education and minoring in Language Arts and ESL. During my time at St. Norbert, I have had the opportunity to work in a number of schools throughout the state, including completing a 9 week student teaching placement in a 2nd grade classroom. I am from Green Bay, Wisconsin and attended the majority of my K-12 education in the Ashwaubenon School District. Outside of teaching, I enjoy reading, traveling, and being outdoors. I am excited for the opportunity to work with your student in their ELA classes and look forward to getting to know them better throughout my time at Freedom Middle School.

In closing, we have enjoyed watching the seventh graders grow as readers and writers this year and wish them the best of luck in their future academic endeavors.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE LIFE SCIENCE**

**Mr. Atwater**



We are currently in a biological engineering unit where students are taking a wildlife monitoring technique and finding ways to modify it and make it more effective at monitoring wildlife using engineering strategies. After that, we are going to investigate some anatomy starting with the plant kingdom and photosynthesis as a chemical equation and then move into invertebrates and vertebrate anatomy/dissection.

Bird migration is well under way. Keep your eyes open for returning swallows, sparrows and warblers. The bird of the month is the Yellow-rumped Warbler. This is typically our first of several warblers to return. It is about the size of the sparrow and can be found in most woodlands foraging on insects at the tops of trees.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Mr. LeBrun**

### **Timber Rattlers**

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade has their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter incentive trip planned for Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Students will be invited to attend the Wisconsin Timber Rattler game. As mentioned, this is an incentive trip. Students who maintain a good attitude, behave themselves, and continue to put forth good effort in their academics will be invited to attend. Specifics for their trip were already sent home in their Wednesday folders. As for right now, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers would like to see 100% of the class attend this fun event.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

We will finish up the year studying about the Louisiana Purchase and the events leading up to and including the War of 1812. In conjunction with studying about Lewis and Clark and their exploration of the Louisiana Territory, the students will do some of their own exploring of the Louisiana Territory. The students will take a modern day trip to the Territory by working with maps, atlases, and tour books. Students will work with a budget and deal with real life trip issues. The students will finish the year learning about the events of the War of 1812. It's been a pleasure working with the students this year. Good luck for a safe summer and a great year entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Stock Market

Congratulations to Callie Berg, Megan Alexander and Kylie Coenen who placed in the top 10 state wide in the Wisconsin Stock Market Simulation.



## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH

### **Mrs. Runyon**

We have just finished a very difficult chapter on geometric measurements. One of the *Mathematical Practices* that students are expected to meet is: "I can solve problems without giving up". This was a skill that we had to work on during this chapter. Many of the problems took a lot of precision and time, which is something middle school students struggle with.

The next unit we are starting is statistics and probability. We will work first on probability. During this chapter, students will learn to:

- determine the probability of simple, dependent and independent events.
- use probability to make predictions.
- determine the outcomes of an experiment, predict whether events are likely or unlikely, and if the experiment is fair or unfair.
- determine, compare, and make predictions based on experimental or theoretical probability of independent or dependent events.

### **Pre-Algebra**

Students in pre-algebra also finished up a difficult chapter on linear functions. The rest of the school year will be focused on statistics and probability along with creating, comparing, and analyzing geometric figures.

PLEASE use the book website for extra help. [www.connected.mcgraw-hill.com](http://www.connected.mcgraw-hill.com)

PLEASE use my YouTube videos to have a better understanding of each lesson. Go to YouTube.com and search Sarah Runyon.

Below are some pictures of students completing the Escape Room – Geometry Activity.





## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

**Mrs. Fogarty and Mr. VanRossum**

May is a busy, exciting time for everybody with several added events. It's amazing that we are already in the last month of school.

In the eighth grade, we're looking forward to several events including a trip to FVTC on May 11, our annual class trip to Miller Park on May 24, a service trip to the Veterans' Home at King on May 26, and eighth grade recognition night on May 30.

In ELA class, some highlights of May include presenting *This I Believe* essays and creating a book trailer. Students are reading *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry, which depicts a society quite different from ours. The in-class discussions typically evoke strong emotions from the students and aid in connecting to the text. Students will be required to read outside of class and complete supplementary work related to the novel.

Finally, at the end of the quarter, students will take a cumulative final exam. The exam will cover things from throughout the year but with special focus on second semester concepts. Students will need to study in preparation for the exam.

There is not a required AR test for May, but daily reading is still encouraged. In order to maintain ELA content, take some time over the summer to engage in reading and writing.

Throughout the year, we have focused on kindness, acceptance, and justice as themes in ELA. One of the books we read, *Wonder*, exemplified that theme. As a part of your summer, we would like each student to send us a postcard with a personal precept on it.

Students should know what this means; however, for you to understand, a precept is a belief, inspiration, or motivation about something. One example from *Wonder* is, "When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind." We look forward to hearing from our students this summer!

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCIENCE

Mr. Bins



Over the last eight months, it has been a true pleasure to work with the class of 2021 in Eighth Grade Earth Science. They have demonstrated the ability to think abstractly, question the world around them, and have fun along the way!

Our previous unit took us into an exploration of Earth's weather and climate. In this unit, we learn how all of these processes are connected and how we can predict weather based on our previous knowledge.

Our next unit takes us into an exploration of current issues in environmental science. In this unit, we will look at topics which impact our daily lives or could impact the daily lives of students over the course of their lifetimes.

I am looking forward to seeing what the two months have in store for our eighth grade students as they develop both scientifically and as leaders of our school!

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH

Ms. VanEperen



Where has the school year gone? Summer is almost upon us as students are finishing up the last couple chapters in their books. Algebra recently completed Chapter 10 on radical expressions and equations. They were introduced to graphing radical

functions, performing operations on radical expressions, and solving radical equations. They even got a sneak peak of trigonometry as they had one section on trigonometric ratios. The last chapter for these students will be focusing on Rational Functions and Equations. Students still have quite a bit of learning left to do before they get to check out for summer!

Math 8 recently completed Chapter 6 on Transformations. They are completing a project on these concepts to see how it can apply to other situations. They will then finish up their last chapter where they will be further exploring transformations and congruent figures. These students will then be experiencing the preparation necessary for a cumulative final, which is a great opportunity to have before heading into high school.

Please encourage your child to continue to put in the effort that they have all year as we still have a lot to learn/do before the school year is over! They are reminded to use the book website as a valuable resource for reviewing. It has been a pleasure working with this 8th grade class, and I wish them the best of luck in high school! Seventh graders, I can't wait to have you in class next year and get to know you and your families. Parents, thank you for all of your efforts, and I hope you all have a splendid summer!

## SPANISH

Mrs. Drammeh

Feliz mayo/junio! 6th grade started their last pentemester on April 11th. We have been doing a great job learning the routines of the class, especially with trivia and warm-up conversation. We have studied basic conversation, alphabet, numbers, and colors. Next is a unit on the calendar. 7th grade finished reviewing 6th grade topics

and is now working on a family unit. 8th grade finished reviewing 6th and 7th grade topics and is now working on a community unit. All classes have been making great progress and are full of fun, respectful students.

Next year, I will be in the same room, but 6th grade will become a 9 week course and 7th & 8th grades will become 7 week courses. Nos vemos en septiembre!

## **UPDATE FROM MR. MAVE'S CLASS**

### **Mr. Maves and Mrs. Stingle**

This past school year has produced many positive changes in student's social skills and academic performance. There are many reasons for these positive accomplishments. The top four reasons that stand out as main contributing factors to these positive changes are: the students, the student's parents, school staff, and most importantly Mrs. Stingle, our room's paraprofessional.

#### The Students

It can be very hard to change inappropriate social skill and academic behaviors. The students that I had the pleasure to work with this past year, all made positive changes to become better in school, at home, and in the community. These needed changes are positively linked to each of them being more successful in school. This success was directly related to efforts towards meeting their goals and objectives. I am very proud of each and every student.

#### The Parents and Guardians

During this past year, I have had the privilege to meet and work with great parents and guardians. These parents and guardians made the decision to work with the teachers and staff to encourage their children to be personally responsible in the school setting as well as at home. When the

kids know that the teachers support the parents/guardians and the parents/guardians support the teachers, great things happen!

### School Staff Members

The Freedom Area School District is very fortunate to have teaching staff, support staff, and administrative staff that are true professionals. Daily, they make great decisions to provide kids incredible expertise in teaching academics and are models of positive social skill behavior. These talents meet and exceed the needs of student's social skill and academic growth.

#### Amy Stingle

Mrs. Stingle spent her year working with 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Her attention to detail along with true caring and understanding of student's needs resulted in each student making positive gains. Mrs. Stingle has true passion for her daily work with all students. The students that we work with are truly fortunate to have Mrs. Stingle working with them each day.

## **ART NEWS**

### **Mrs. Glynn**



Wow!! Can you believe that the school year is coming to an end already? Where did the time go? The middle school art classes have been working on a few projects.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are currently working on their comic pictures. We have talked about comic cells, plagiarizing, and copyright work. They will soon begin working in clay. We will talk about scoring and slipping, tools used and how to fire the clay in the kiln. After that we will begin working

on complementary colors and designing packaging labels for products.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will begin working on still life drawings. We will talk about different shading techniques, values, and how to make objects appear 3D on a 2D surface. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders will then move on to clay in which they will have to create a realistic famous building. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will create a container out of clay. Please stop in anytime to see what your child is working on.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Mrs. Wehlage, Ms. Vandenberg and Mr. Springstroh**

Mr. Springstroh and Ms. Vandenberg's 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes just finished up the cardio unit and speedball unit. Next, the students will be starting a soccer unit. They will be starting their unit indoors with learning skills involved in soccer and playing various soccer games; as the weather gets nicer the students will be going outside to play games on the practice fields. When we head outside it still may be a little cooler out. Your son/daughter may bring a sweatshirt or an extra pair of sweatpants to put on over their PE clothes.

## **COMPUTERS**

**Mrs. Helmila**

On April 11, the 5<sup>th</sup> pentemester started. If your son/daughter is in computer class this pentemester, he/she will be working on increasing his/her keyboarding skills. Keyboarding skills are introduced in the elementary school, but in 6<sup>th</sup> grade we focus on increasing keyboarding speed and accuracy.

By the end of this month, we will have completed Lessons 1 through 9 in EduTyping (our online keyboarding

program). Students will have learned/reviewed the following keys:

- Homerow (A, S, D, F, J, K, L, ;)
- H and E
- I and R
- O and T
- N and G
- Left Shift and Period

The students will also receive their first homework assignment on Friday (April 28). The purpose of homework assignments is to help prepare students for their timed tests on Mondays. Homework assignments are given on Fridays and are due the following Monday. The students will take their first timed test on Monday (May 1). The goal will be 20 words per minute with at least 90% accuracy. If students do not achieve this goal, they will get an opportunity to retake the test on Tuesday (May 2). If your child would like to practice keyboarding at home, they can log into EduTyping and work on the lessons we have covered in class. Students should know their username and password for EduTyping. However, if there is a problem logging in, you can always contact me for help. My email address is [bhelmila@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:bhelmila@freedomschools.k12.wi.us)

## **HEALTH**

**Mr. Springstroh**

Here are some of the recent topics we have been discussing in the health classroom. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade just started health class. We have begun class by discussing hygiene. In the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students have finished talking about drugs, and now will begin our alcohol unit. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class has just finished discussing mental health problems, and now will begin talking about the endocrine system.



## **TECH ED**

### **Mr. Rupiper**

Students in the 8th grade tech ed are getting the chance to experience some very cool technology we have at Freedom. Students started the quarter using the 3D CAD software Solidworks. They had the opportunity to draw some very simple items that just scratch the surface of the programs capability.

Students also had the opportunity to use our 3D printers which allows them to print the part in 3 dimensions that they drew up in Solidworks. Once this unit was complete the students have been researching simple machines and creating a Rube Goldberg setup. Students have been designing creating and building their own simple machine to Perform a task. All students have shown a great deal of enthusiasm getting to use the cool technology and a wide range of tools in the department.

## **INTRO TO AGRICULTURE**

### **Mr. Larson**

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter has arrived and students will be moving about a lot this quarter, weather permitting. This group has already done some career opportunity exploration. We will be touring outside of the various agriculture venues we have created for which students can be involved in the high school. Our recently constructed high tunnel is ready to be planted by high school students with cool season plantings of peas, broccoli, lettuce, etc coming soon. The students will also tour the pond and prairie areas and woodlot. These areas are used extensively with the high school courses that students can sign up for when they enter the high school. With over 300 career options in agriculture, we try to allow students to

experience as many different options as possible. We are looking forward to more warm weather and being able to have students involved with some more outside activities.

## **CHOIR**

### **Mrs. Maves**



“A School without a choir is like a body without a soul” (John Rutter). I find this statement to be very profound. I think a child without music is like a body without a soul. How many times do you listen to music within your day? How many times is music the vehicle through which you are brought to emotions you didn’t know were there? Choir is a place for children to feel those feelings, and be safe while expressing feelings that might not be comfortable. The choir is a safety blanket for the individual. We aren’t alone when singing in a choir. We are surrounded by others who are feeling and expressing emotions that may be very foreign to young people. Yet, within the group, within that expression, there is safety in numbers. “There is an emotional ‘meeting place “that exists between the singers and the audience. It is like reaching your hand out and touching a mirror. There are still two hands, but they are as one. This common ground is where they share the experience completely and equally.”(Timothy Seelig) Choir is important. Music is important. Our concert is important. Monday, May 15 at 7pm in the fieldhouse. I hope we can share our experience with you.



## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NOTES

Mrs. Langner



As I write this news article on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, the MS music department has been very busy. In honor of Music in Our Schools Month Ainsley Baumgart, Abby Duescher, Nicholas Piepenburg, Abby Retzlaff, Ryan Retzlaff, Olivia Seidl, and Linnea Willer performed solos for the school board before their March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, composer Darryl Johnson II worked with Irish Bands 7 & 8 on his piece “Zeros and Ones”. The students have been practicing this composition and will be performing it at the Spring Concert.

FMS held WSMA Large Group Clinic Festival on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> Cadet Bands, Irish Band 7, Irish Band 8, as well as Waupaca MS 7<sup>th</sup> grade band all performed for Dr. Michael Arau from Lawrence University. He listened to the students’ play their concert pieces, asked them questions, and worked with the students to improve their performance of their music for the Spring Concerts.

All MS Bands are working to polish the music for the spring concert. The spring concert will be held on Monday, May 8, 2017, in the field house. The concert is free and open to the public. Performing in the concert will be Cadet Bands, Irish Bands, and FHS Bands. We hope to see you all on May 8, at the spring concert!

FMS Bands are planning a trip to the Maritime Museum on May 11<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>. This should be an exciting and engaging adventure.

The quote for May is “Music is an essential part of everything we do. Music has an abstract quality that speaks to a worldwide audience in a wonderful way that nourishes the soul.” *Jim Henson*

### EXPLORING MUSIC

**Mrs. Seibert**

Eighth Grade Music and Drama students have been working on The Star Spangled Banner in three parts on electric guitar. They will be teaming up with a partner and working on a radio broadcast. The students will then work with the Peer Educators in the Lecture Hall on improvisational skills.

Seventh Grade Music Discovery students have moved into a piano keyboard unit, learning and testing individually on the basics of the piano. The grand staff is being used and students will be tested on this and other music terms. The students will then play in small ensembles, utilizing percussion and string instruments available in the classroom

Sixth Grade Music Discovery students have studied using nontraditional instruments in a performance. They are going to take this performance one step further and critique their own work. They will then learn how to write this performance so other people can perform it, making them the composer. The grand staff will be used, along with dynamics, tempo, and form.

Here is a picture of the middle school musical, “The Perfect Impossibility” that was just performed on April 7 and 8. This provided many ways for your students to get involved in a school activity. Some of

which are acting, singing, dancing, stage crew, art, costuming and script writing.



about each other when they share them with the class.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a speaker from Sexual Assault Resource Center to speak to our 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter ACP.

Have a fantastic summer and enjoy time spent with your family and friends!!

## THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER

**Mrs. Kielpikowski**



The temperature's are finally starting to warm up. Hope you have had time to get out and enjoy the weather. I love going for walks and hiking on trails.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade ACP, we will be starting our study skills unit. We look at what type of learner they are and areas they need to improve on to be successful. We will then begin talking about careers. We will link their skills/abilities/interests and relate that to potential career choices. We use a website called Career Cruising. They can show you what they learned at home as well.

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade ACP they are working on power points about themselves that illustrate aspects in both academic and personal areas of interest. The students get to learn more

Enjoy your Summer!!