

Freedom Middle School



FROM THE MIDDLE

Mr. Ken Fisher, Principal

Phone 788-7945

September, 2016

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 1 Student first day
Sept. 2 PBS kick off day
Sept. 5 No School Labor Day
Sept. 6 Math STAR testing
Sept. 8 Reading STAR testing
Sept. 9 ID photos taken; Fundraiser kickoff
Sept. 12 MAPSS meeting
Sept. 14 Speaker, Encouraging Positive Choices
Sept. 16 6th grade to Camp UniLiYa
Sept. 19 Board meeting
Sept. 20 Work completion day midterm 1
Sept. 21 7th grade Ledge View Caves
Sept. 22 7th grade Ledge View Caves
Sept. 23 Climb Theater presentation
Sept. 24 Saturday School
Sept. 26 Fundraiser ends
Sept. 28 1st Quarter midterm report cards home

FROM THE PRINCIPAL MR. FISHER

WELCOME BACK PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND STAFF

As we begin another exciting school year, I would like to officially welcome everyone to a year filled with opportunity. Henry Ford said; "Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently". The rigors of middle school will challenge students and many life lessons will be learned during the upcoming year. We have an excellent staff at Freedom Middle School and they will work diligently throughout the year to provide a quality education for each and every student.

NEW STAFF AT FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Please help me welcome the new staff at our school. They bring enthusiasm, experience, expertise, and a commitment to providing an excellent education for your children! New staff at FMS include; Wendy Cropsey (Special Education Teacher MS/HS students), Pauline Allen (Special Education Teacher MS students), Marny Clark (Teacher Assistant Special Education), Cathy Cotrell (Teacher Assistant Special Education), and Heidi Zirk (Gifted & Talented Coordinator). Watch the Freedom

Welcome Back!

Pursuit for a more detailed overview of the new staff!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Our monthly middle school newsletter titled; “From the Middle” provides interesting and important information for our middle school families and in my opinion it is a must read! The first publication each year is authored by the middle school principal but subsequent issues will contain staff and student articles. Each issue contains information that will help parents/guardians and students understand the unique characteristics of the developing adolescent! Our newsletter is also available online at www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us under the middle school home page link. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding our monthly newsletter, please contact me at the following email address or just stop in to share your views kfisher@freedomschools.k12.wi.us.



ACCEPTING ONLY YOUR PERSONAL BEST

The middle school students and staff will be working together throughout the year as we begin preparing for the academic challenges that lie ahead. The state of Wisconsin has challenged professional educators to make certain that all students graduate from high school; and are college and career ready. To accomplish this task I believe we need to raise the expectations within our building and the phrase “Accepting Only Your Personal Best” sums it up perfectly.

Parents/guardians can help the school reach this goal by being involved in your child’s school related work and activities! Attend school events, visit skyward, set high standards for the quality of homework completed, celebrate accomplishments and support your child during hard times. We have been a *good* school for a long time and now it is time to strive for *greatness*!

MIDDLE YEARS PUBLICATION

Middle Years is a monthly publication that is written specifically for Middle School students and their parents. The September issue of Middle Years provides many tips and strategies for a successful start to the new school year; *School is priority #1* stresses the importance is being on time and prepared for school each and every day, *Still involved* explains why middle school kids really do want their parents/guardians to be involved in things that happen at school, *Respectful from the start* shares several great strategies that will help your child show respect in all school settings, *Just write it!* Provides several strategies that will jump start your child’s writing skills; they will write in most subjects in middle school, *Home alone? Not yet* there are great options for kids that want to stay home alone, check them out, *Dealing with Change* this may be the perfect title to describe the middle school experience and it offers suggestions that will help our new students adjust.

TEEN FOOD AND FITNESS

Teen Food and Fitness should be read by students and their parents/guardians so that the weekly trip to the grocery store supports a healthy and nutritious lifestyle. During the month of September learn more about exercise and nutrition via the following articles; *Healthy food routines* talks about the food we choose and the manner in which it is consumed, *Smart reasons to break a*

sweat will provide multiple reasons to exercise on a daily basis to include soothing stress, lifting your mood, and improving memory, *Avoid the “health halo”* will help us all make better choice regarding what a healthy snack really means, *Cut from the team* points out the importance of parents/guardians talking with their kids when they are facing a failure or disappointment, *“If/then workouts* will help your teen keep their interest in healthy and appropriate exercise, *Dinner in a jiffy* has got my attention, I might try these tasty recipes over the weekend!



MAPSS REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

The Middle School parent organization is looking for parent and student representation for the current school year. I am looking for (2) parent and (2) student representatives from each grade level to serve with this important organization. MAPSS provides many opportunities throughout the school year that will have a positive impact on students and their families. Parent and student representatives are necessary so that their opinions and concerns can be voiced. Parent rep forms are included in this newsletter and student forms will be handed out the first week of the new school year; please consider joining as a parent/student team! To learn more about MAPSS, visit the district website at www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us and click

on the MAPSS link under the Clubs & Organizations tab!

STUDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Skyward is the student management system used in the Freedom Area School District. As we begin the new school year, parents/guardians have already received an access code to Skyward that allows viewing important student information related to daily assignments, test results, attendance, lunch account balance, etc. I would recommend that parents/guardians view academic information with your child so that you both have a vested interest in their academic success throughout the year. It is the student's responsibility to study for tests and keep up on daily assignments but support at home always helps students stay motivated and on track!

FREEDOM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT WEB SITE

Please take the time to visit this website sometime in the near future. The district website has recently been updated with a new look, be sure to check it out! The website provides specific information regarding the School District, High School, Middle School, and Elementary School. You can find the district web site at www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us. Each different entity home page provides information regarding staff, schedules, calendars, forms, and links to state agencies that provide school related information. If you have difficulty finding the website, please contact the Middle School office for assistance at 920-788-7945.

WEEKLY ENVELOPE

Each week (usually on Wednesday) your child will bring home a weekly envelope.

This envelope will contain important information that parents/guardians need to know! Some of the information may update you on your child's academic progress or share details of upcoming school event. The weekly envelope has a signature page that we ask parents/guardians to sign; this is so that we know you have reviewed the information in the envelope. Our students are expected to bring the envelope back to school the following day with a parent/guardian signature, please help them with this task!

Information!

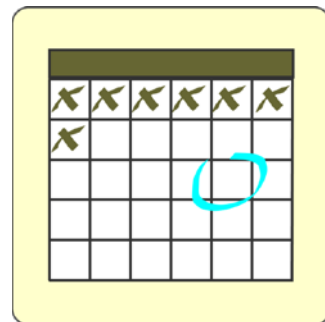
HERB KOHL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

You can nominate your favorite teacher for a very prestigious award and the nomination forms will be available in September. The Herb Kohl Educational Foundation is celebrating its twenty sixth year of providing fellowships for 100 teachers and matching grants to the schools of those teachers. This program provides an opportunity to recognize excellence in education and I encourage you to participate. **Nomination forms must be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction on or before Friday, September 26, 2016.** Nominated teachers will then be sent a nomination form so that they can provide personal information including their accomplishments and contributions to

education. Watch for the forms in your weekly envelope!

FMS MONTHLY EVENT CALENDAR

Each monthly newsletter will include a Middle School event calendar that will list the many events occurring at school involving students and their parents/guardians. Please use the event calendar and the district calendar to plan your personal schedule as we progress through the year. Parents are encouraged to get involved in their child's education at home and here at school. If you have a special talent or a great story to tell, please share this information with me and I will contact your child's teachers to see if your experiences will fit into the current curriculum. Parents are our most valuable resource and we need you to get involved in your child's education. Research supports parental involvement and when parents take an active role in their child's education at home and at school, students perform better academically and socially.



STAR STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed in the areas of Mathematics and Reading three times each year and the data will be used to monitor academic progress in these important areas. The STAR Universal Screener will be given in September 2016, January 2017, and May 2017. Parents of students that qualify for extra support in one or both of these content areas will be notified that their child will

receive additional academic support. Thirty minutes each day will be devoted to meeting the academic needs of our students in RtI math, RtI reading, or guided study. If you have any questions about this academic support program, please contact me at your convenience; work phone 920-788-7945, cell phone 920-716-7558, kfisher@freedomschools.k12.wi.us.

ANNUAL FUND RAISER

Scott & Mary Halbleib of Chip Shoppe Fund Raising will kick off our annual fund raising effort on Friday, September 9, 2016. A few important fundraiser dates are listed below; Product and food sampling in the cafeteria during MS Open House on Tuesday, August 30th, Sale begins (Friday, September 9, 2016), Orders & Money are Due (Friday, September 23, 2016), Delivery date (Tuesday, November 1, 2016 in the cafeteria; pick up 2:30pm-6:00pm). This annual effort provides money for our student programs and initiatives. Over the years this annual fundraising campaign has provided funding for students to be involved in experiences that help them grow academically, social, and emotionally. The entire staff at Freedom Middle School appreciates the support from our Middle School parents and the entire Freedom community in this annual fundraising effort.

8th GRADE GOAL CONFERENCES

I will be meeting with all 8th grade students in September to discuss their academic and behavior goals for the upcoming school year. I know that our 8th grade students serve as role models for the entire Middle School and I stress the importance of establishing goals to give them a positive direction for their final year in our school. Setting a good foundation during their 8th grade year will pave the way for a smooth

transition into high school. 8th grade students will write their academic and behavioral goals here at school and they will bring them home for a parent/guardian signature; please take the time to review and approve their personal goals for success!



BRING YOUR PARENT/GRANDPARENT TO LUNCH

In observance of National School Lunch Week, Freedom Middle School would like to cordially invite you and your family to a fine dining experience! I would strongly encourage parents/grandparents to attend this luncheon to experience what a quality lunch program we have here in the Freedom Area School District. The luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2016 and our lunch period runs from 12:00pm-12:39pm; please plan to arrive 10 minutes early to check in at the MS office. The food service Director Greg Weis will be sending more specific information home in the weekly envelop regarding the menu and lunch prices. When you arrive in our middle school lobby on the day of the luncheon student representatives will be there to greet you, share details of the lunch menu, sell you a lunch ticket and escort you to the cafeteria.



NUTURING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

I know that all parents/guardians want their child to be successful in school and in life and at times we may not understand all that should be done. I am a parent as well and I could have benefitted greatly from a few suggestions on how to support and promote my child's school success. Adolescence is a challenging time and middle school students really need a strong connection with a caring adult in the home setting. Through my continued research on promoting academic excellence I came across some great strategies that will help you bring out the best in your child through their middle school experience and beyond! Please take some time to review the insert titled *10 Ways to Help Your Child Succeed in Middle School*. Reading this information with your child will help him/her prepare for a successful school year! Follow this link to the same article listed above;
<http://goo.gl/GFyw18>

PBS

Positive Behavior Support is an initiative that was introduced to our students as we started the school year in September of 2014. On Friday, September 2, 2016 the middle school staff will work with our 6th graders throughout the day and the entire school in the afternoon to bring PBS to life here at FMS. Please take some time to review the Behavior Expectations Matrix that was shared at Open House on August 30th. Our students will know and understand the behavior expectations so that it will be easier for them to make the right choices during their time here at school. With parental/guardian support I believe we can create a very positive school learning environment at FMS!

**WE HOPE YOU
HAVE A
WONDERFUL
SCHOOL
YEAR!!!**