

IRISH REFLECTIONS



September 2016



From the Principal

I hope everyone is off to a fantastic school year. There seems to be a lot of excitement in the hallways this year with the success of all our fall athletic teams. While we are very proud of our many accomplishments in athletics, we also aim to bring the same excitement to our academic day.

We will continue to support the use of RTI time. 30 minutes is set aside, each day, for RTI. RTI stands for Response to Intervention and basically answers the following questions of the teacher:

1. What is it you want the students to learn?
2. How will you know if they have learned it?
3. What will you do if they haven't learned it or were not challenged?

Using state curriculum standards or common core will answer the first question. Using a proven assessment process will answer the second. The third question requires some RTI time to be built into the school day for remediation or acceleration.

Directly relating with question number two is a process called Assessment of Learning. For example, if your child has geometry this year, take the time to look at the grading policy. You will see that 90% of the grade earned will be determined from summative assessments

(exams, projects showing mastery, etc.) and 10% from formative assessments (homework, questioning, discussion, etc.) This model (Assessment of Learning) has been established by all departments.

We are also starting a program to improve writing. The details of this program are found in this newsletter. Please remember, you can monitor your child's progress on-line. If you need technological help in order to perform the monitoring, please call the high school and we will be glad to be of assistance.

Again, it is a pleasure to serve the Freedom Community and to be the principal in a school of outstanding students like we have at FHS.

Mr. Erickson
FHS Principal



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

HOMEcomings DANCE

Saturday, September 17th
7:00-11:00pm – Dome Gym

EARLY RELEASE

Friday October 7th

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thursday, October 19th & Friday, October 20th
4:00-7:15pm

NO SCHOOL

Friday October 21st

WINTER BREAK

December 23rd – Early Release
December 24th – January 3rd

END OF 1st QUARTER

Friday November 4th

NO SCHOOL

Monday November 7th

THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 23rd through November 27th

WINTER BREAK

December 23rd through January 1st

END OF 1st SEMESTER

Thursday January 19th

NO SCHOOL

Friday January 20th

New Staff at FHS

We have three new staff members at FHS this year. All three positions are the result of the retirements of Mr. Schulze, Mrs. Pahl, and Mrs. Morehouse.

Replacing Mr. Schulze in the social studies department is Samantha Puckett. Samantha graduated High School from Fox Valley Lutheran and college from Lawrence University. Mrs. Puckett taught World History, Western Civilizations and Social Problems for two years at Marinette High School prior to Freedom. Mrs. Puckett will also be helping out the volleyball program by coaching the JV team.

Replacing Mrs. Pahl as the guidance secretary is Shelly Klister. Mrs. Klister comes to us from Wrightstown High School where she served as the guidance secretary for the past three years. Mrs. Klister is an FHS graduate and lives in Freedom.

And lastly, Wendy Cropsey is taking over for Mrs. Reader in the special education department. Mrs. Reader replaced Mrs. Morehouse which opened up her position in special education. She graduated college from the University of Green Bay and has fifteen years of teaching experience in the Green Bay School District. In addition to her teaching certification, Mrs. Cropsey has a background in Educational Interpreting for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and is fluent in American Sign Language. Mrs. Cropsey is also an FHS graduate and lives in Freedom.



Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences for the High School will take place on Wednesday October 19th and Thursday October 20th from 4:00-7:15pm each night.

These conferences for the high school will take place in the green gym.

Middle School Conferences will take place on the same dates as the High School. Elementary Conferences will take place on Tuesday October 18th and Wednesday October 19th. (Elementary dates were printed wrong in our district calendar).



Senior Gowns

We are going with a different company to supply our gowns, graduation announcements, diploma's, etc. Because of this, our new gowns do not match the gowns we have used in the past. It is a slightly different shade of green.

Therefore, if your senior was planning to use an older sibling's gown for graduation, they will have to get a new one. The good news is, the new company will take your old gown in exchange for a new gown at zero cost. This will only be the case for the graduating class of 2017.



Choir

“Every time we sing we send positive energy out into the world.” Ryan Guth, Choral Nation. What an awesome concept. My goal is to create a place where your child can unite with other voices to create beauty within his or her day. My hope is for choir to be a class your child looks forward to each day. I hope to open their minds and hearts to beauty in this world that they weren't aware of prior to participating in choir. My hope is that choir members are too busy creating beauty with others to participate in so many activities and choices that destroy others and our world. We are changing the world through choir!



Freedom High School Math Team

Freedom High School continues to compete in the Fox Valley Math League. It is a league of regional schools that bring their best and brightest math students to compete academically. As a team, we travel to the host school, and do our best math in 4 individual events, and a team event. Top competitors from 3 levels are awarded medals, and the winning team takes home a plaque. It is a great way to challenge our talented math students, and for them to share and connect with Freedom High School. Meets are always once a month, on Monday nights after school, busing is provided. Visit www.fvml.org for a complete schedule, and contact Mr. Rusch for more information. Math Team is an excellent college resume add-on.

First meet is October 10 @ Appleton West

Edwin Rusch

erusch@freedomschools.k12.wi.us

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NzUzNDA0NVpa> join code k8ivnar



Letters of Recommendation **Mike Fogarty HS English**

In the past twenty years of teaching at FHS, I've learned that September isn't just the start of a new school year; it's the start of letter of recommendation season. Like most high school teachers I'm asked to write several of these each year. In September and October seniors need letters for the college admissions process. In spring students who are applying for scholarships or internships, often require a letter from a teacher. I've never turned a student down—even when the request came at the absolute last minute. Students should know that there is etiquette to requesting a letter of recommendation. As your students embark on the process of applying for college, internships, and scholarships, remind your student to keep these tips in mind.

1. Ask the teacher face to face for the letter. Many universities use the Common Application which is completed online. The Common Application has students request the letter from a teacher electronically, and the teacher submits the letter online directly to the university through the link that comes from the Common Application. Nevertheless, students should personally speak to the teacher before the request for the letter is made or immediately after.

2. Give the teacher writing the letter some time to get it done. The sooner that you make contact with the teacher the better. I find that two weeks is plenty of time; however, students who ask for letters at the end of a quarter when report cards are due might have to wait longer. If there is a specific deadline that the letter must be received by, let the teacher know. This way the teacher can let you know if he isn't going to be able to write it in time, and you'll be able to ask another teacher.

3. Bring what the teacher will need to write the best possible letter for you. Is there a specific prompt that the teacher should address? Is there a scholarship committee that the teacher should mention in the salutation? The FHS Guidance Department has a link on the school's webpage. Your teacher will appreciate it if you have this completed when you make your request. It can be found here:

<http://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/highschool/student-services/LetterofRecform.cfm>. This form has what your teacher needs to write the best possible letter for you. Use your Career Locker Account (soon to be Career Cruising) and use it to help you remember all that you've done in your time at FHS. This way, your teacher can get a more complete picture of you and can highlight all of your positive attributes.

4. Show your gratitude after your teacher has written your letter. A simple card and note is much appreciated, a plate cookies isn't too shabby either. If you procrastinated, and your teacher was still able to get your letter done in a day, consider something larger like making his next month's house payment.

5. Finally, update your teacher. Did you get into the school you applied to? Did you earn the scholarship that you applied for? Teachers love hearing about their students' successes.



Writing Across the Curriculum

We are implementing a program in FHS to help improve our students writing skills. This program will help our students improve their writing skills in all classes, not just English class. When teachers assign or require a piece of writing, whether formal, informal, or short answer in a class other than English class, it will be graded by content, and then according to the writing matrix. When teachers are grading according to the writing matrix and the writing contains 3 or more violations of the “non-negotiables”, they do not get a grade. It will be handed back to them and they will be asked to make the changes and resubmit. Remember, has already graded the assignment for content, so they cannot change that part of the grade, the only difference is that now the teacher will submit the grade into skyward. Over time, we believe the number of “resubmits” will be reduced as their writing improves.

Why Write Across the Curriculum?

Learning to write, and write well, is a crucial life skill. Not only does it help one succeed in school, it’s vital to success in the “real” world too. Writing has become essential in today’s wired world. We communicate through the written word on a daily basis via email and text.

And when today’s elementary and middle school children enter the work force, they will be expected to know how to fire up their computers and write coherent, intelligent content pretty much no matter what field they choose.

In addition, studies have shown that writing helps boost student achievement across the board because it actively engages children. It requires them to take in information, organize their thoughts, sort through all of the information they’ve received and then process it.

Writing aids retention. It helps students remember and understand material much more than passive forms of learning like reading and listening.

Writing increases the depth of knowledge on a subject and helps students master any specialized vocabulary or terminology related to the topic.

Writing develops critical thinking skills. When a child has to research something, organize her thoughts and then write about it in a clear, concise way she’s flexing her mind.

Writing promotes independent thinking. In order to write, you have to have a point of view.

Writing Across the Curriculum Benefits Teachers

As daunting as writing across the curriculum may sound to some teachers, there are a lot of positive things about incorporating writing into your lesson plans!

Writing is a great way to engage *all* of the teacher’s students! You won’t just hear from the kids who are always throwing their hands up.

Writing helps teachers monitor student progress and gauge their strengths and weaknesses With regular writing assignments as part of your curriculum, you don’t have to wait for a big exam to see if the kids are getting it.

Writing helps teachers see gaps in instruction so you can adjust your teaching to ensure that all of the students get what you’re talking about!



Writing Non-Negotiables

Punctuation:

- Use correct end punctuation.
- Punctuate contractions correctly, (i.e. I'm, don't)
- Use commas correctly in a list or series.
- Use commas correctly in compound sentences.
- Use commas correctly in complex sentences.

Capitalization:

- Use correct capitalization at the beginning of sentences.
- Use correct capitalization for proper nouns and adjectives.
- Correctly capitalize titles.

Formatting:

- Indent paragraphs.
- Include student's name on paper.

Spelling:

Use the following homophones correctly:

- your/you're
- there/they're/their
- to/too/two
- here/hear
- it's/its

Use spell-check, if available

Wording:

- Avoid run-ons and sentence fragments.
- Avoid texting language and abbreviations.
- Avoid prohibited words and phrases:

- gonna, kinda, sorta, wanna
- cuz, til
- "The End"
- Weak phrases like: in this (paper, paragraph, etc.) or I hope you enjoy(ed).....



Biology

The new term is off to a great start in the Biology department! In AP Biology, we have planted our *Brassica* (broccoli) seeds to observe evolution in action. Students have been presenting “miraculous” water demonstrations that showcase the quite natural properties of water that make life possible. Our upcoming unit will get students considering the role of the environment as it relates to the success of the organisms within the community.

In Anatomy & Physiology, students have been and will be channeling their inner Dr. Meredith Grey this year. Our first dissection was of a pickle and was surprisingly awesome. The students loved it. Don't be surprised if the Twitter hashtags #superficial, #anterior or #dorsal start moving up the What's Trending page because our students will be using the hashtags to demonstrate their ability to use the terms when describing anatomical positions and locations.

In Biology, we are participating in an ambitious Citizen Science project with the DNR. We will be taking water samples and invertebrate counts from Duck Creek on campus. Students are developing and conducting experiments to determine the water quality of the creek to identify and propose real solutions to real problems here in Freedom.

BioClub is our extracurricular organization devoted to engaging and community-based opportunities for students to increase their knowledge of themselves and their environment. Our club also has a partnership with the DNR and will be taking water samples from Duck Creek throughout the year.



WISCONSIN
ASSOCIATION OF FFA



NEWS RELEASE

MADISON, WIS., June 15, 2016 – Danielle Angotti of the Freedom FFA Chapter was elected to a year of service as the 2016-2017 Section Eight State FFA Officer during the 87th Wisconsin FFA Convention held in Madison, Wis. Her parents are Daniel and Michelle Angotti. Her advisors are Mr. Paul Larson and Mr. Kevin Champeau.

Throughout her FFA experience, Danielle served as President of her FFA Chapter in 2015-2016 the received her State FFA Degree in 2016. She was able to serve as a leader who encouraged younger members to get involved. Danielle believes that if a new member attends just even one FFA event they will realize how great the National FFA Organization is. Danielle's Supervised Agricultural Experience or SAE is in the area of beef production entrepreneurship where she was mentored by a family friend to start her own herd.

Angotti plans to attend the University of Wisconsin – River Falls with a major in Agricultural Education. She plans to be a successful teacher and advisor who makes a difference in the lives of others, just as her advisors did, while staying in the Fox Valley area.

During Danielle's year as a State FFA Officer, she will meet thousands of FFA members and will travel over 10,000 miles. In addition to meeting with members on the local, state, and national levels, the entire state officer team will meet with leaders in government, education, business and agriculture.

The Wisconsin Association of FFA is a leading student organization due to the efforts of more than 20,400 students across the state. With a focus on premier leadership, personal growth and career success, students' FFA activities complement agricultural classroom instruction by giving them an opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge while gaining real-world experience. These activities are dependent on donor funding through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation. For more information about Wisconsin FFA and the Wisconsin FFA Foundation visit www.wisconsinffa.org or www.wisconsinffafoundation.org, become a fan of Wisconsin FFA Foundation on Facebook, or call 715-659-4807.



Clubs and Organizations

It is highly recommended that students get involved in different organizations to enhance their high school experience. Please see a list below of the different clubs and organizations available to students.

INTEREST CLUBS

Archery Club.....	Mr. Buechler/Mr.Riska
Auto Club.....	Mr. Abitz
Blood Drive.....	Mrs. VanderBloomen
Camera/Tech Club.....	Mrs. Lorge
Chess Club.....	Mr. Hammond
Crystal Ball Planning.....	Student Council
Destination Imagination.....	Unassigned
Forensics.....	Mrs. Hauser

CURRICULUM CLUBS

Art Club.....	Mr. Brunn
Art Honor Society.....	Mr. Brunn
Boundary Waters.....	Mr. Fogarty
FFA.....	Mr. Larson/Mr. Champeau
Math League.....	Mr. Rusch
Biology Club.....	Mr. Pamperin
Spanish Club.....	Mrs. Porter
Jazz Band.....	Mr. Delany
<i>Jazz Band earns a 1/2 high school credit</i>	
Creative Writing Club.....	Mrs. Westemeier

SELECT CLUBS

Homecoming Planning.....	Mr. Harke	Honors Band.....	Mr. Delany
Lucky Charms.....	Mr. Lancaster	National Honor Society.....	Mrs. Hauser
Musical.....	Mrs. Maves/Mr. Delany	Peer Educators.....	Mrs. VanderLoop
Student/Athlete Advisory.....	Ms. Olson	Project Saving Grac.....	Mrs. VanderLoop
School Newspaper.....	Mr. Fogarty	Student Council.....	Mrs. Bolwerk
Prom Planning.....	Junior Class Advisors	Teen Leadership Project.....	Mr. Harke
Robotics Team.....	Mr. Rupiper	VICA.....	Mr. Abitz
Yearbook (Shamrock).....	Mr. Hammond	Honors Choir.....	Mrs. Maves

Sports

Baseball.....	Mr. Fox	Golf Girls.....	Mr. Abitz
Basketball (Boys).....	Mr. Van Rossum	Hockey (boys and girls).....	TBD
Basketball (Girls).....	Mr. Vander Loop	Soccer (boys and girls).....	Mr. Oshefsky
Cross Country (boys and girls).....	Mr. Jones	Softball.....	Mr. VanderLoop
Dance.....	Mrs. VanAabel	Track Boys.....	Mr. Jones
Football.....	Mr. Kriewaldt	Track Girls.....	Mrs. Joly
Golf Boys.....	TBD	Volleyball.....	Ms. Vandenberg
		Wrestling.....	Mr. Lancaster

WELCOME BACK!!

Are you ready for F.I.R.S.T. Robotics!

I hope everyone had a great summer and is excited to be back at school! I know that I am excited to be back and working with my classes and setting up Freedom's FIRST team! Over the summer I have gained some connections and contacts to possibly help out our team as we move forward. If any team member, student, or parent has an interest in helping out with our team please let me know.

- If there is anyone that did not attend the meeting in MAY YOU can still join if you are interested! (See Mr.Rupiper)
 - If you're not sure about being part of the team check out the website to see what it's all about!
<http://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc>
- The F.I.R.S.T. team meeting of the year will be on **Tuesday September 27th** from **3:30 to 6:00** in Mr.Rupiper's room (153).

Any Questions feel free to contact me or stop on by! I look forward to working with everyone.
JRupiper@freedomschools.k12.wi.us

