



IRISH PRIDE PRESS

August/September 2016 Newsletter

View newsletters at www.freedomschoos.k12.wi.us

Important dates:

- School Begins
September 1
- 4K (M-W) First
Student Day
September 7
- No School
September 5
- Picture Day
4K-Grade 5
September 27
- 4K Picture Day
September 28
and makeup
day
- Paper Recycling
Sept. 19–Oct. 3

Continue to save
**Box Tops for
Education**

We are a NUT
FREE School.
No Homemade
or Store Bought
Baked Goods



Principal's Corner

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year.

On behalf of the staff, I want to extend a special Freedom WELCOME to all our new students across the grades and their families joining our learning community here at Freedom Elementary School. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest staff members; each individual offers something special for our students in the school: Mrs. Heidi Zick - GT/Spanish, Mrs. Jenny Biese, Special Education Aide, Mrs. Beth Konkle, Food Service and one grade level change within the building is Ms. Stacy Schmidt moved to Third Grade.

I am so excited for another great year at Freedom Elementary School. The newsletter contains information for the school year. Please take a few minutes to read through it to help you get the year off to a great start.

Newsletters

Freedom Elementary School publishes a monthly newsletter that will be published only online. The newsletter may be read at www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us and click on Elementary School, Newsletters.

You will be notified by email when the newsletter is ready to view. Please make sure your email is up-to-date. Paper copies are available in the office for those who wish to pick one up.

NUTRITIOUS SNACKS & NUT/PEANUT FREE ZONE



The School Health/Wellness Policy adopted by the Freedom Area School District is promoting healthy nutrition. Families are asked to send nutritious snacks and birthday treats. Please refer to the district web site for many peanut/nut free options and school policy/guidelines. The district website is: www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us.

Please Note: Freedom Elementary School is a nut/peanut free school. Do not send any homemade baked treats, only send fruit or packaged items that do not contain nuts/peanuts. Purchased goods or store bought may be baked in factories that use peanut products. Please read the container package for this information. **Any baked or purchased baked goods will have to be sent back home, please do not send/bring them to school.** This is due to many students who have severe allergies to nuts/peanuts. Thank you for your support with the wellness issue.

Picture Day – New District Photographer - Lifetouch

Freedom Elementary School's Picture Day is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27. Note: The students attending 4K Kindergarten on Monday and Wednesday will have their pictures taken on Wednesday, September 28. We will also do makeup pictures on September 28 for any students who were absent on September 27.



All students will have their picture taken. Families do not have to purchase picture packets. Picture fee information will be sent home later this month.

School Hours

The school day begins at **8:00 a.m.** for Freedom Elementary School. Students should be in class and ready to learn at 8:00 a.m. Announcements begin at 7:50 a.m. daily. Dismissal is at **3:05 p.m.** All children must be dismissed through the school office if leaving outside of our normal dismissal time. We ask parents to come into the office and ask the secretaries to call their child to the office. This is done for the safety of every child at Freedom Elementary School. The 4K kindergarten students attend Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday all day.



On-line Registration

Registration was done on-line this year. Please contact the elementary office if you haven't completed it and need assistance.

Thank you for your continued patience with this process.

RtI (Response to Intervention)

FASD believes in providing the highest quality of education for every student. Here is the information about a four-tiered instructional approach we are using to meet this goal, referred to as Response to Intervention (RtI). RtI grew out of the federal educational laws No Child Left Behind Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA).

For RtI, all students will participate in the core curriculum, with four levels (tiers) of instruction for students who demonstrate at-risk skills in reading and math. Each tier provides additional support beyond the core curriculum. All students will be assessed three times a year with the STAR Universal Screening tool to measure their progress to determine if they are performing at grade level.

***Tier I** – Teachers will use differentiation strategies within the core curriculum to address individual student needs.

***Tier II** – Based on progress data, students who are unsuccessful in Tier I will be provided supplemental research-based interventions matched to their needs. Students in Tier II will have their progress monitored in relation to grade-level expectations. Tier II levels of support are provided within the regular classroom.

***Tier III** – Students who continue to struggle in Tier II will receive more intensive interventions at this level. After Tier III implementation, students who continue to display limited progress may then be considered for further evaluation and services.

***Tier IV** – Referral for additional services provided by the Special Education Program.

Should your child be in need of Tier II or Tier III academic support, the interventions will be provided during WINN (What I Need Now) Time or outside of core instruction.

We realize that all students learn differently. We are committed to helping all students succeed. Therefore, we ask for your support in implementing this four-tiered approach to meet the academic needs of your child along with all students in our school. For additional information on RtI, please visit our state RtI website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/rti/>. As always, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or principal if you have questions or concerns.

Food Service and Lunch Prices

Family Food Service account information and e-mail notification may be available through the Food Service module of the District's Student Management System. Parents wishing their students not to participate in the Food Service program must do so in writing. Family Food Service accounts that fall below -\$30.00 may be suspended. Contact Mr. Weis, at 788-7950 ext. 3301 with any questions.

We invite you to eat lunch with your children at any time, during the school year. Elementary Student Lunch Price: **4K-1 \$2.15, Gr. 2-5 \$2.25** and an Adult Lunch Price is **\$3.20**. Adults need to either purchase lunch tickets in the school office before they join their child for lunch or you may use your family account. Please have exact change, as the office carries no cash.

Student Drop-off

All students must enter the school building through the front doors. We ask that parents driving their children to school, to park their car and walk their children to the front door by using the marked cross walk. This will help assist the traffic congestion occurring on County Road E.



We realize this is an inconvenience but for safety reasons please follow this procedure.

Welcome Back from the PAC (Parent Activity Committee)

PAC is Freedom Elementary School's parent group. We sponsor school-wide events to enrich student life at Freedom Elementary, raise money for our school and promote family fun! Some of our events include:

- All-School Sock Hop and Family Fun Night
- Brain Bowl (grades 4K through grade 2)
- 5th Grade end of year celebration
- Coordinating the Teacher Wish List
- Paper Recycling Drives and Fundraisers
- Student and Staff Appreciation Days
- Sponsoring an Artist-in-Residence program



PAC meets the third Monday of every month (no meeting in December) at 6:00 p.m. in the Art Room to plan activities, pitch new ideas and address general questions about our school. There is no attendance requirement to be involved with PAC—any parent/grandparent can be involved as little or as much as they'd like. We welcome you to come to any meeting!

Get involved with our parent group by filling out the Lend a Helping Hand form and mark your calendar for our first PAC meeting of the school year. You can also stay up-to-date with PAC by subscribing to the website www.freedompac.org or joining Freedom Elementary PAC on Facebook.

First PAC meeting: Monday, September 19, 6:00 pm in the Art Room at Freedom Elementary School, Room # 22

Free child care is provided by Freedom High School National Honor Society students during our meetings.

Erin Lenhardt, PAC President

FREEDOM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BYLAWS AND POLICES

To access the district policies go to:

www.neola.com/freedom-wi

OR

www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us

and click on the district bylaws and policies link