



Freedom Middle School

in the middle

January 2024



Hello and welcome to the “*In the Middle*” monthly newsletter. Enjoy reading about all of the great things happening here at Freedom Middle School!

GO IRISH!!!!

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Important Dates:

Monday, Jan. 1	No school; winter break
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Classes resume
Monday, Jan. 8	MAPSS meeting 5:00pm
Monday, Jan. 15	Board meeting 6:30pm
Monday, Jan. 15 - Friday, Jan. 19	Scholastic Book Fair
Friday, Jan. 19	Quarter 2 ends
Monday, Jan. 22	No school, break
Tuesday, Jan. 23	No school; staff work day
Friday, Jan. 26	7th Grade mini courses

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Important Reminders:

- ★ School starting time is 8:00am. Ending time is 3:21pm. Students should be in their 1st hour class no later than 7:55am.
- ★ Turn in all appointment notes to the office. This will help in regards to the 5 and 10 allowable absences from the state.
- ★ Early release time is 12:30. Lunch runs from 12:00 - 12:30. If your student will be leaving during the lunch time please call the school ahead of time so that your child can have a pass to leave.

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Dr. Methner

Hello FMS Parents and Guardians!

Happy New Year! January is a great time to pause and reflect on the successful completion of the previous year, and to set goals for 2024! Our goal of ensuring that all Freedom Middle School students become high school ready is part and parcel of every decision we make. If your students have individual goals that we can help come to fruition, please let us know.

I am continually impressed with our kids in the classroom, on the field/court of sport, and on stage. If you happened to see our holiday concerts or catch a basketball game recently, you know that we have great kids and dedicated staff. I encourage all parents and students to get involved in school activities. Spring sports are just around the corner. We are also always looking for parents to join our MAPSS group or pitch in as a coach. Please contact me if you're interested.

If you aren't already doing so, please take a look at our Homework Hotline. This is a great resource that is updated daily on our school website.

The Homework Hotline will indicate upcoming assessments as well as daily homework, and is a great way to engage in academic conversation with your student.

To our students and staff: I continue to be impressed with your dedication to learning and school spirit. You are what makes Freedom Middle School a great place to be!

I encourage parents and guardians to reach out to me or to teachers with any questions or concerns. I can be reached via email at gmethodner@freedomschools.k12.wi.us, or by phone at 920-788-7945 ext. 2309. GO IRISH!!!



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Counselor's Corner - Mr. Jason Bins

Greetings Stakeholders and where did the first half of school go? Although fast, our 2023-24 school year is off to a great start. Thank you for your support and guidance thus far and as we move forward!

The middle school counseling department is working on a number of items in January to support our students and families.

As we enter January, we start to focus on Academic and Career Planning at all grade levels. In these push-in lessons, we work with students to explore careers and the pathways to getting there.

January also marks the start of our fifth to sixth grade transition. To do this, we work with the FES counselors to slowly introduce our fifth graders for their upcoming building change, so they can be productive members of the FMS student body.

We are also continuing work on rapport building with our students, but adding an emphasis on family communication and building relationships with families to support the students at FMS.

With this said, I encourage you to let me know if there are "things" going on at home which may impact your students' day at school. This could be as simple as sending me an email that says "HANDLE WITH CARE - STUDENT NAME." This will alert me that

will not be followed with questions. Just a communication of receipt and an email to your child's teachers to provide extra grace to your student. Teachers/staff have been trained to not follow up with questions to your child, but just to provide the extra grace and understanding.

Your communication could also be more detailed with pertinent information to support your child's day at Freedom Middle School. As always, this information is protected by counselor confidentiality ethics (voided by potential or current physical harm to parties involved) and legitimate educational interest law.

As I often tell students, my entire role at FMS is to support the social/emotional wellbeing of the students of FMS. Please let me know how I can support your students as they continue their path into adulthood through Freedom Middle School!

Thank you for your support of Freedom Middle School and its students and staff! Please let me know what I can do to help your student. I can be reached at (920) 788-7945 (x2288) or via email at jbins@freedomschools.k12.wi.us.
Water the Bamboo! -JB



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News from 6th Grade

In ELA, kids are fine tuning their skills of finding good fit books, books of interest that are appropriate for helping them progress as readers. It is fun to share in their excitement of recommending books to others!



In 6th Grade Social Studies, we learned about the Sumerian civilization which rose to power in Mesopotamia (The land between the rivers). The Sumerians were known to have invented the wheel and the plow, they made bronze tools and weapons, and they used a number system based on 60. We also learned about other cultures that controlled Mesopotamia through the years, such as the Hittites, Assyrians, Chaldeans, and Persians. Each culture developed new innovations in the areas of irrigation, architecture, art, road building, ship building, and the creation of new laws as revealed in Hammurabi's Code. The Phoenicians were credited for spreading the idea of using an alphabet, which has had a great impact on our culture today. Now we are exploring Ancient Egypt and its remarkable culture and architecture. We are learning about the construction of the Pyramids of Giza, the importance of the Nile River, and the ritual of mummification which reflects the religion of Ancient Egyptians. The students will learn about the gods and goddesses of Ancient Egypt, the pictograph writing known as hieroglyphics, and the amazing discoveries of the ancient tombs of the Pharaohs. The next stop will be the Ancient Hebrews.

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News from 7th grade

7th Grade ELA

In seventh grade ELA, we will be working through our informative writing unit. Students will do a number of introductory activities to familiarize themselves with the five-paragraph essay format then move into an one essay done mostly together as a class (Burmese python); one done as a mix of whole class work, partner work, and individual work (Peshtigo Fire); and finally, one essay done independently (Jackie Robinson). Class time will be provided for all steps, though students may need to work outside of class to meet deadlines. We will continue our monthly independent reading projects and weekly root work (Greek prefixes)

7th Grade Science

Greetings from 7th grade science. We are in the middle of our Physical Science unit. Currently we are taking a look at several different forms of energy such as kinetic, gravitational, thermal, chemical, elastic and others. 3rd quarter will be on earth science where we will be investigating weather and climate. 4th quarter will be on biology where the focus is on cellular processes.

Wisconsin Bird of the Month: The Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco. This purple/slate colored member of the

sparrow family is a common feeder bird seen throughout the state through fall, winter and early spring. It mainly feeds off the ground so if you want to attract it to your yard, sprinkle some black-oil sunflower on the ground under your feeders.

Here's hoping your holiday is restful and full of family time. Happy holidays and see you in January.

7th Grade Science

In 7th grade Social Studies, students are researching and putting together their NHD projects. National History Day is on February 8th and 9th this year.

7th Grade Math

Students in 7th grade math are wrapping up our unit on rational numbers. This was a tough unit, but they have persevered through it. We are starting our next unit on expressions and equations. The students will get a feel for algebra and all it entails. This is one of my favorite units, and I hope the students feel the same way!

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7th Grade Boys Basketball Team (Coach LeBrun, Coach Snyder)



7th Grade Mini Courses Reminder

The seventh grade mini courses field trips will take place on January 26. The Tundra Lodge/Ashwaubenon Bowling alley trip all takes place during school hours. The Nordic ski trip will leave after the scheduled school day starts, but your child will need to have a ride home at approximately 4:00. The Hooked Up fishing trip requires students to be at school and on the bus to Sturgeon Bay at 7:00 and to be picked up at approximately 4:00. Teachers in charge of each trip will meet with students closer to January 26 for more details and questions.

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8th Grade Math

In January, Math 8 students are finishing up Chapter 8. In this chapter, students learned how to calculate the volume and surface area of 3-dimensional shapes. We have specifically worked with cylinders, cones, spheres, and hemispheres. Students also learned how to calculate the volume of composite solids – a 3-dimensional shape created from two or more individual shapes. To end the semester, Math 8 students will prepare for and take the semester exam. This exam covers the Geometry Readiness Unit and Chapters 4-8. This exam will be worth about 1½ times the weight of a regular chapter test.

Algebra

In January, Algebra students are finishing up Chapter 5, which is all about inequalities. In the first half of Chapter 5, the students learned that inequalities have many of the same properties of equations and that they can solve them just as they would solve an equation – with one exception (ask your student, they will be able to tell you that difference)! In the second half of the chapter, students learned about compound inequalities, inequalities involving absolute value, and finally, how to graph linear inequalities. To end the semester, Algebra students will also prepare for and take a semester exam. This exam covers Chapters 1-5 and will be about 1½ the weight of a regular chapter test.

Science

In 8th grade science, students have worked from identifiable traits to splitting cells through mitosis and meiosis, and finally to DNA replication. Modeling cell division is an important central concept in this unit that focuses on how and why we look the way we do. From here students work toward building an understanding of the probability of certain traits being passed from one generation to the next in our reindeer genetics project. Students worked to save Christmas by cross-breeding reindeer with specific traits to meet Santa's needs for his sleigh team.



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EnCore Classes

Exploratory Spanish:

Learning about Hispanic culture is an important part of Spanish class. We do this through answering fun trivia questions, watching short travel videos, listening to cultural folktales and creating projects based on Hispanic holidays and celebrations. These classroom activities help students to gain a better understanding of and connection to the diverse people throughout the world.

Señora Zabel

Exploratory Music:

Students will enter the new year completing their handbell units. Each class has been learning to perform a piece of music in a handbell ensemble. While it can be a great challenge, students have risen to the task of preparing this music just the same way as our other performing ensembles do here at FMS. As we move into January each grade will again split off to exploring different instruments and aspects of music history. I am particularly excited to be discussing “The Sharpness Wars” which details how we ended a centuries old battle for “correct pitch tuning” at the end of World War 1!

Mr. Brandt

Library News

Scholastic Book Fair:

January 15 - 19 Freedom Middle School Library

Dear Families: Get ready! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them on their journey to becoming life-long readers. AND—as always—every purchase at the Fair benefits our school. During the week of January 15 - 19, students may bring cash or cards to purchase Book Fair items. Another convenient way is through **eWallet**—your child’s digital payment account. Before the Fair, set up eWallet for worry-free, cash-free purchases for your child. Visit our Book Fair Homepage as soon as December 26 to learn more and get started with **eWallet**. <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/freedommiddleschool10> The countdown to more Bookjoy is on! Catch you at the Fair!

Mrs. Zabel

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Band and Choir

There's a lot going on in the band and choir rooms! Right now it's all about the NEC Honors Festival and Solo Ensemble Festival! Choir students recently participated in the Badger State Honors Choir and sang with world-renowned tenor Simone Liconti. They did a beautiful job and represented Freedom Middle School very positively. Participants were Cesar Vigil, Ainsley Montonati, Zayda Byers, Madison Behnke, Khloe Welsing, Kaylie Manders, Leah Wahlen.

Cloutier, Sikari Skenanadore, Elizabeth Hanson, Hattie VanHandel, Evalynn Groneman, Khloe Welsing . Way to go! We are so proud of your achievements!

Mark your calendars! Freedom will be hosting Solo Ensemble Festival on Saturday, March 9th, 8:00 AM-noon. We will need all hands on deck to help make this a wonderful event for the music students. Keep an eye out for more information to come.

We also have several students that will be performing in the North Eastern Conference Middle School Honors Band and Choir on Saturday, January 27th, at Clintonville High School . The band students performing this year are Hayden Gulmire, Allison Eckes, Max Schnaubelt, Carter Verkuilen, Kelsey Severson, Jonah Rodewald, Lex Arcand, and the choir students are Ainsley Montonati, Kolton Rohan, Bryce Motquin, Jazmyn

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From the health office:

Reminders for the school year-

- If vomiting/diarrhea- your student must be 24 hours vomiting/diarrhea free prior to returning to school/co-curriculars
- Fever of 100.4 or greater, your student will be sent home. Your student must be 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reduction medications prior to returning to school.
- Bring in your emergency medication forms and medications. If a medication is kept on person, a physician must indicate that in the letter/form.
- If there is a change in your student's health condition/diagnosis, physical restrictions, please let the nurse know. Phone is 920-788-7944 or Email is akazik@freedomschools.k12.wi.us

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Middle/High Lunch Menu

Menu Subject to Change

January 2024

USDA is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 No School Student Lunch \$3.00 Reduced Lunch \$0.40 Adult Lunch \$4.35 Extra Carton of Milk \$.30	2 Nachos OR Hamburger Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	3 Chicken Patty w/ Mashed OR Rib Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	4 Brunch for Lunch OR Sloppy Joe Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	5 Pizza Or Popcorn Chicken Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
8 Chicken Sandwich OR Ham & Cheese Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	9 Chicken Wrap OR Tacos Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	10 Penne Pasta & Meatballs OR Corn Dog Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	11 Diced Chicken w/Mashed OR Hot Dog Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	12 Pizza Boat Or Fish Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
15 Chicken Patty Sandwich Or Sloppy Joe Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	16 Nacho's OR Cheeseburger Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	17 Grilled Cheese OR Sub Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	18 Pasta Bake Or Pizza Pocket Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	19 Pizza Or Chicken Tenders Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
22 No School	23 No School	24 Mini Corn Dogs Or Rib Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	25 Chicken Nuggets OR Meatball Sub Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	26 Chili OR Hot Dog Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
29 Stuffed Crust Pizza Or Ham & Cheese Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	30 Tacos OR Chicken Burrito Bowl Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	31 Spaghetti & Meatballs OR Corn Dogs Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	The Foodservice Department welcomes your questions or comments. Please call 788-7950 ext. 3301	
				A positive foodservice balance is required to participate A la Carte Items Rice Krispy Bar \$1.25 Muffin/Granola Bar \$0.75 Dbl Ch Oatmeal Bar \$0.75 MEGA Meal \$1.50 Water \$1.25 Snapple \$1.75