



FREEDOM FIREBIRDS

Our Mission:

Freedom Traditional Academy is committed to providing a well-rounded educational experience in which students develop great citizenship and achieve academic excellence through a rigorous, accelerated, and purposeful curriculum while supported by an engaged and involved family community.

Our Vision:

Preparing all students to be successful, productive citizens and lifelong learners.

Message from the Principal

Hello Firebird Families!

Fall is finally here and the cooler weather is definitely welcomed! As of Friday, October 7, I will be back at Freedom from being on leave. I sure have missed seeing the kids! Since I was gone for a little over a month, this newsletter will include a recap of September and information for October.

There were many things that happened in September. We had our first family flag ceremony of the year where students were recognized for their achievements and character. Families are invited to attend on the first Tuesday of every month. We had a 9/11 assembly where we paid homage to the flag and remembered the lives lost. It was an honor to have the Luke Air Force Base Honor Guard at this event to perform the Presentation of Colors. It was amazing! Constitution Day and Sandra Day O'Connor Day were celebrated through fun and engaging lessons at every grade level. Check out the pictures from these events on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

There are many things happening in October! We begin the month with Parent/Teacher conferences. This is a great way to understand in detail how your student is progressing. Right after conferences, we have Fall Break (Oct 10-14). To end the month, PTA has scheduled three events. On October 18, there will be a PTA meeting in the cafeteria at 6:00 pm. You are welcome to attend! The next event is Chipotle night. This will be on October 19 from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. The month ends with PTA's annual Fall Festival on October 28 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. During this event, there will be a trunk or treat with teachers dressed up, games with prizes, food trucks, a cake walk, a silent auction, including many other things to do. In order to make this a success, **PTA is in need of volunteers**. If you would like to volunteer, even for an hour, please contact FreedomPTA@gmail.com. It would be very much appreciated! We look forward to seeing your family there!

One of our school goals this year is to ensure that parents are always informed about their child's progress as well as our school's progress in attaining these goals. As you have noticed, your student (2nd-8th grade) takes home a weekly progress report every Monday that shows current grades,

missing assignments, and your student's reflection on the week. It is very important that this be signed. This helps the teacher know that you are aware of your child's current grades. Don't be alarmed if you ever receive a phone call from your child's teacher! We enjoy reaching out to share how great your child is doing!

As a school, we have 5 academic goals and 2 community goals:

- By May of 2023, the number of 3rd-8th grade students at proficiency will be increased by 5% on grade level math standards as measured by the state assessment.
- By May of 2023, the number of 3rd-8th grade students at proficiency will be increased by 5% on grade level ELA standards as measured by the state assessment.
- By May of 2023, 80% of 4th-8th grade students will increase at least one point value as measured by the state assessment rubric.
- By May of 2023, the overall percent passing for fifth and eighth-grade students will increase by 5% as measured by the AzSCI state assessment.
- By May of 2023, Freedom Traditional Academy will partner with a minimum of one community business; currently, our baseline is 0.
- By May of 2023, Freedom Traditional Academy will increase parent communication regarding student and school progress as measured by 4 community surveys with 90% or more parent satisfaction.

One way we monitor our progress toward achieving the above goals is through periodic assessments. Our 3rd-8th grade students just took a district benchmark. This tests your child on all of their grade level's state standards. In other words, your child is tested on everything they need to know at the **end** of the school year. Since we are 2 months into the school year, students should know approximately 20% of the grade level's required standards; 50% in December, and 100% in May. As a school, 76% of our students are proficient/highly proficient in their grade level's required state standards. *This is exceptional!*

Now that you know our goals, we would like to hear how well you think we are doing and receive feedback on what we can do better. We would really appreciate it if you would take [this 5-question survey](#) by October 31. The results will be shared in November's newsletter.

For the Kids,
Connie Welford

Take
Survey

Volunteer Corner



As you know, Freedom Traditional Academy believes that children are more successful when there is a strong partnership between school and home. We know that our families have busy lives, so we offer many family-friendly volunteer opportunities.

Here are some examples:

- ALL PTA events (Fall Festival, Bingo Night, Polar Express, Book Fair, etc)
 - Contact FreedomPTA@gmail.com for more information.
- Direct traffic at arrival and/or dismissal

- Helping the Teachers (copying, bulletin boards, reading groups, etc.) - email your teacher to set up a time/day
- Volunteering for Polar Express (in December) - email Mrs. Serene
- Art Docent for your child's classroom - email your teacher
- Help with Band/Choir/Orchestra Concerts - email Ms. McCloud or Mr. Swanson
- ...and many more!!!

News from PTA



There are upcoming PTA events planned for the months of October, November, and December! Here's what is happening...

- Oct 18 at 6:00 pm - PTA Meeting in the Cafeteria
- Oct 19 from 5-9 pm - Chipotle Night
- Oct 28 from 5-8 pm - Fall Festival
- Nov 1 thru 18 - Spirit Store is Open
- Nov 9 from 3-9 pm - Handel's Night
- Nov 18 from 6-7:30 pm - Bingo Night in the Cafeteria

Performing Arts



Have you seen our choir, band, and orchestra perform? They are phenomenal and have a lot of fun practicing and performing. Band and orchestra are open to students who are in 5th through 8th grades. The choir is open to students who are in 3rd through 8th grade.

If your child is interested in participating in the performing arts, email Ms. McCloud at Katrina.McCloud@dysart.org and/or Mr. Swanson at Allyn.Swanson@dysart.org for more information.

Athletics



Boys and Girls Soccer Schedule

Boys Soccer

- Tryouts: After school on October 18 and 19
- Coach: Ms. Waldera

Girls Soccer

- Tryouts: After school on October 17

- Coach: Ms. Kimmerle

***In order to try out, students must be in 6th-8th grades, have good grades, and have the permission slip to try out signed and completed by parent(s).*

Upcoming Events



- **Oct 10-14: Fall Break**
- Oct 20: Fall Pictures
- Oct 28: Fall Festival (5pm-8pm)
- Nov 10: Veteran's Day Assembly (9:00 am)
- **Nov 11: No School in observance of Veteran's Day**
- Nov 16: Thanksgiving Lunch
- Nov 18: Turkey Trot (more information to come)
- **Nov 21-25: Thanksgiving Break**
- Dec 6: Band and Choir Concert (6:00 pm)
- Dec 7-8: Math and Reading District Benchmark
- Dec 15: Polar Express Night (5:30 pm)
- **Dec 19-Jan 2: Winter Break**

Freedom Traditional Academy
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