



FREEDOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5626 Sykesville Road
Sykesville, Maryland 21784
(410)751-3525 (410)795-4767

Freedom Web Site: <http://www.carrollk12.org/fes>

Richard H. Huss
Principal

Nicole M. Jensen
Assistant Principal

August 2009 Newsletter

It is the mission of Freedom Elementary to provide an environment where all students become lifelong learners and productive citizens.

Dear Parents,

The start of school is just around the corner! We are very excited about the beginning of the new school year. Many changes have occurred over the summer.

We will be starting this school year with approximately 540 students, a slight decrease from August 2008. Some of our staff has switched grade levels, transferred, or left for other opportunities. Some new faces will join us this fall.

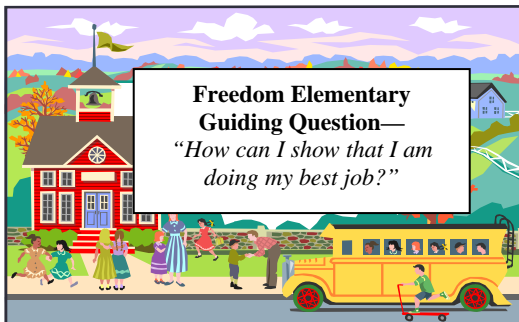
New staff includes:

- Mrs. Nicole Streaker, Kindergarten
- Mrs. Cara Roberts, Fourth Grade
- Vicky Fitzgerald, Kitchen Worker

We welcome all of the new staff. They are great additions to the Freedom family.

We say farewell to:

- Mrs. Betsy Reinders, Retired Second Grade
- Mrs. Susan Fordi, Retired Fourth Grade
- Jennifer Fiorenzo, Relocated out of state Kitchen Worker



Carroll County elementary schools, for privacy and safety reasons, do not publish or post class lists. On the address label of this newsletter you will see your child's homeroom teacher assignment. If you have more than one child, the additional labels are attached at the top of this page. Please note that

nearly all grades exchange students for some classes. **This homeroom teacher may or may not be your child's ILA or Math teacher.**

Bus route information can be accessed on the CCPS website (<http://www.carrollk12.org>) and will be published in the Back to School edition of the Carroll County Times on August 18th. All elementary students are eligible to ride the bus. Please make every effort to have children ride the bus on the first day (and every day). We have staff assigned to assist in identifying buses for each child by their arrival. This is made much more difficult if many children are transported by parents on the first day.

We will continue to place emphasis on maintaining a safe school environment for your children. To this end we are requiring all visitors to register in the office and wear badges before going to classrooms. Additionally, after the first few days of school have passed and a routine has been established, parents are not to escort children to their classrooms or go to classrooms to pick children up.

Students are not permitted to return to classrooms for forgotten items after they have left for dismissal. Every class will have a home preparation time at the end of the day to review expectations and check for necessary items. These are first steps to children developing responsibility for themselves.

Please respect that arrival and departure times are not conference times. Teachers have planned activities and are responsible for their students. Conferences can be arranged, if desired, by calling the school office.

Please help us protect the safety of your children by following these guidelines.

We would like to thank **Margy Barnes, Paul Brilman, Kim Phelps, Walter Reaver, and Mike Wiley** for all their work in preparing the building for this school year! Everything looks bright and shiny.

Construction is nearing completion on our new kindergarten addition and renovation. As with most improvements, there will continue to be some short-term inconvenience for our long-term gain.



We invite you to join us at our **Welcome Back Open House on Thursday, August 20th** from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. This is a time for students and parents to meet the teachers, see their classrooms, and get excited about the new school year. For your convenience, on this same day we will also offer a **New Student Orientation** (for parents and students in the cafeteria) at 2:00 in the cafeteria. We will also offer a **Volunteer Training** for our Kindergarten parents at 3:00 in the kindergarten classrooms while students are supervised by staff members.

As we begin the school year we would also like to make you aware of the dates and times of Back to School Nights at Freedom Elementary:

Kindergarten – September 3

Grade 1 – September 3

Grade 2 – September 1

Grade 3 – September 1

Grade 4 – September 2

Grade 5 – September 2

Back to School Nights will begin at 6:30 p.m. Volunteer trainings will be held at 8:00 p.m. each evening. It is mandatory for all persons who volunteer (including field trip chaperones) to attend Volunteer Training each school year. **Please note training must be completed at least seven (7) school days in advance of volunteering and is required each school year.** Volunteer sign-up sheets will be in each classroom at Open House and/or on Back to School Nights.

Our Back to School Nights have been well received and parents appreciate the opportunity to meet school staff. We hope that you will be able to join us for these important informational nights. Please remember that Back to School Nights are a time for teachers to share curriculum and other information with parents. We would encourage you to make childcare arrangements with other family members or neighbors so that the information sharing time will be most beneficial. Please remember that this is not an individual conference time. As always we thank you, in advance for your cooperation. School will begin for students on **Tuesday, August 25, 2009.**

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. We look forward to working with you and your child!

Sincerely,

Richard H. Huss
Principal

Nicole M. Jensen
Assistant Principal

Gifted and Talented Program

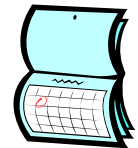
The CCPS Gifted and Talented Program is designed to meet the needs of highly able learners and maximize student achievement. Gifted and Talented teachers, in collaboration with classroom instructors, will continue to provide a continuum of interventions designed to meet the needs of Gifted and Talented Education Program participants. This may include in-class instruction, pullout groups, and/or resource development with classroom teachers. A Referral and Review Team will determine student eligibility for interventions. Indicators for participation include observational checklists, standardized test scores, work samples, and classroom performance. Although students are not formally identified until the beginning of third grade, Gifted and Talented teachers will continue to provide a range of services for grades K-5, including the Primary Education Thinking Skills for grade 2. Look for more information concerning the upcoming Gifted and Talented Education Program Orientation Night.

Alert Now Replaces eSchoolnewsletter.com

The Carroll County Public School System is now using the AlertNow Rapid Communication Service to provide parents with information from their child's schools and the school system. AlertNow replaces eSchoolnewsletter and is capable of delivering both e-mail and phone alerts at no charge to parents. You do not have to sign up for the new system. All information is taken from emergency procedure cards. AlertNow was piloted in six schools last year and we have had very positive feedback. We are excited about the new capabilities AlertNow offers and believe it will greatly enhance our communication with parents and our school communities.

September Conference Evening

Freedom, along with several other elementary schools, will offer a conference evening around the time of first quarter interim reports. For Freedom, these conferences will be held on Wednesday, September 30th from 3:30 – 7:15 p.m. These conferences are scheduled based on teacher request only and more details will be sent home early in the school year.



Checks or Money Orders Please

We no longer accept cash payments. All school related purchases (other than daily lunch purchases and school store) must be made using a

check or money order. This includes school pictures, spirit wear, field trips, etc. We appreciate your cooperation as we follow financial guidelines established by Carroll County Public Schools.

School Procedures and Policies

Please note – We do not distribute a separate parent/student handbook so please review the information in this newsletter carefully. We apologize in advance that it reflects so many do's and don'ts but it is necessary to make all families aware of this information related to school and county policies.

Emergency Procedure Cards

Please return emergency procedure cards as soon as possible. Completed and signed cards provide needed information in helping us provide emergency care to your child. Please be sure all information is legible, accurate and updated as needed during the school year. A new format is being followed that requires parents to only complete one sensitized emergency card per child.

When completing your child(ren)'s emergency card please include the name of a daycare provider if that provider is to be allowed to pick up your child(ren) from school. For daycare providers such as Kindercare, TLC, Celebree, and Deb's Place, you should list "a representative from . . ."

School Times and County Attendance Policy

Doors open for students 8:15 a.m.

Instruction begins 8:35 a.m.

- A child arriving after 8:35 a.m., but by 11:50 a.m. will be marked tardy in the a.m.
- A child arriving at 11:51 a.m. or after will be marked 1/2 day absent in the a.m.
- A child who leaves before 11:50 a.m. will be marked 1/2 day absent in the p.m.
- A child who leaves the building during the school day and DOES NOT return within a 3 hour 15 minute period will be marked 1/2 day absent.
- A child who leaves the building during the school day and is gone LESS than 3 hours and 15 minutes will be marked tardy for mid-day.
- A child who leaves the building after 11:51 a.m. will be tardy in the p.m.

Home preparation time 2:45 p.m.

Dismissal begins 3:05 p.m.

Signing a Student In/Out of School

We are asking that students not arrive at school prior to 8:15 a.m. The school day begins at 8:35 a.m. Parents who bring a student to school after 8:35 a.m. should sign in at the office. Dismissal time for parent pick-up is 3:05 p.m. Parents who pick up a student during the school day are required to report to the office to sign their child out. The student will be called to the office for dismissal. We understand that there are times that students need to be picked up during instructional time for appointments; however, this should be avoided if possible. Whenever returning to school later in the same day, parents should come to the office to sign the child in. If a parent plans on picking a child up at 3:05 p.m. on a daily basis, please complete and return the form included in this newsletter. This will eliminate the daily sign out and we can have students at the designated pick-up area in the cafeteria at 3:05 p.m.

Traffic Patterns

We strongly encourage each student to arrive and depart using the bus provided. In a case where you must transport your child to/from school during arrival/dismissal times, **all** parent drop off and pick up is in the traffic loop at the side entrance of the cafeteria. Cars and buses will continue to enter the parking lot from the north entrance. The right lane is designated for buses only. All cars will enter in the left lane and make the immediate left and proceed until the end of the row of parked cars. From there, the cars will turn right and proceed around the loop. **The drive-thru loop on the cafeteria side of the building will be for morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up only.** Please do not park along the curb next to the sidewalk by the side loop. If you feel it is necessary to walk your child into school, we ask that you park in a space along the side of the school near the cafeteria.



School Arrival Procedures

Due to concerns about student safety at Freedom, we are requiring that all students arriving by bus enter through the main front doors and all parent drop - offs enter through the cafeteria doors. **When dropping a student off in the side loop, please pull down to the first yellow line. This will allow several cars to unload at once, thus minimizing the back up on the parking lot. No**

students are to be dropped off prior to pulling into the loop.

Home Preparation

A home preparation time has been built into each teacher's schedule at the close of the day. From 2:45 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. students will have time to prepare themselves and their materials for the trip home. This time will allow each child the opportunity to question their classmates or teachers about assignments for the evening. We feel that if each student takes advantage of this time, there will be very few times that anyone can say "I forgot" or "It's at school." For this, as well as safety and security reasons, students and/or parents will not be permitted to return to school for items after dismissal.

Dismissal of Students

Parents should accept the responsibility for meeting children at their bus stops. Carroll County bus drivers have been instructed to disembark students at the bus stop even if a parent is not present.

School Dismissal Procedures

Once again, students will be dismissed in waves this year. Parents who will be picking up their child at school will need to notify the school (**preferably in writing**) before 2:00 p.m. This will ensure that proper notification can be given for your child's safe dismissal. Students will be dismissed in 4 waves. Each grade level will have a room designated as the waiting area for each wave.

At 3:00 p.m. the bell will ring to signal the beginning of dismissal. After announcements, all students will report to their wave waiting area. The first wave will be dismissed when the bell rings at 3:05. Each successive wave will be dismissed as soon as the previous wave has left the building.

Children who are Parent Pick-up will be dismissed with **Wave 1 at 3:05 P.M.**

Tardiness and County Attendance Policy

In addition to monitoring absenteeism, the school will once again be monitoring tardiness each marking period. For every child who is late to school five times or more per marking period, a letter of concern will be sent home. **"Tardy" will be considered arriving later than 8:35 a.m. (prior to 11:50 a.m.) and/or leaving school after 11:51 a.m. (prior to 3:05 p.m.)** Tardies will be documented on the report card each marking period. Please remember that your child will lose time in preparation, directions, and instruction when he/she is not present in school for a full day.

Bus Stop Policy

The Board of Education bus stop policy allows for only one A.M. and one P.M. stop. Exceptions will be made only in case of an emergency (something unforeseen) or an extenuating circumstance. Bus stop changes related to work can be approved if the work schedule is consistent. **Changes for one day are not permitted.** All requests must be made in writing and require the Principal or Assistant Principal's approval at least three (3) days prior to requested effective date. Please plan ahead and check the school calendar for early dismissal days and holidays. Also have alternate plans for your child in case of an early dismissal for snow or heat. Planning ahead can save confusion not only for the teachers and office but more importantly for your child.



Bus Security

Video/audio cameras are placed on school buses to protect students and staff and provide for a safe and orderly environment. The privacy of students and the recording are kept secure and are reviewed only by the authorized Carroll County Public Schools personnel.



2009-2010 School Calendar

Early Dismissal Dates

Please take notice of the early dismissals that are built into this year's calendar. **The following dates are scheduled to have 2 hour and 45 minute early dismissals (Freedom dismissal at 12:20 p.m.):**

September 18	October 29
November 9	December 3
December 23	January 22
February 5	March 15
April 1	May 11
June 10	

School Lunch Prices

Student Lunch	\$2.00
Milk	\$0.50
Ice Cream	\$0.75

Try the pre-pay option! Has your child ever lost or forgotten his/her lunch money? Our convenient pre-pay option takes care of this worry. Simply pay ahead for five or more lunches (up to 20), and we'll keep a card here at school for your child. You need not use the meals on consecutive days, but each day that you do, you'll have the peace of mind of knowing your child is getting a nutritious lunch.

Also, see the information later in this newsletter about purchasing lunches for the entire year.

Weather Related Announcements

The Carroll County Public Schools system urges all parents to monitor radio and television stations if the forecasted temperature for the following day is predicted to be 95 degrees or higher and the humidity is predicted to be above 50%. If a decision is made to alter the regular school day schedule, parents will need to make alternative plans. When the temperature is predicted to reach or exceed 95 degrees with high humidity, staff members will monitor temperatures in the schools without air conditioning. The decision to close or dismiss schools early will not be automatically related to the predicted temperature, but rather the actual comfort level in non-air conditioned schools. Although the goal of the school system is to avoid closing schools because of excessive heat, it is recognized that learning is negatively affected when temperatures and humidity levels are excessive.

School Supply Kits

Many families took advantage of purchasing the complete school supply kits for each grade level. Kits will be available for pick-up in homerooms during the August 20th Open House.

A.H.E.R.A.

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) management plans for all buildings owned or leased by the Board of Education for Carroll County are available for review at the individual Carroll County school locations and at the Office of Plant Operations, located at 191 Schaeffer Avenue, Westminster, Maryland 21157.

Management plans are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and depict the location, amount, condition, and response action

projected for any asbestos containing materials, if any are located in the school building.

PTA Membership and School Directory

Please take note of the forms included in this newsletter for PTA membership and inclusion in the Freedom Student Directory. Now would be a great time to complete both. They can be dropped off on August 20th or sent in on the first day of school.

School Pictures

Pictures will be taken on September 11th. Payment for the package desired must be sent in with your child on that day. Additional information and payment envelopes will be sent home with students.

These pictures are used for our school yearbook; however, purchase is not required in order for a student's photo to be included in the yearbook.

New Student Orientation and Open House

Our new student orientation will be held on August 20 from 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM in the cafeteria. The Open House will be from 2:00 PM -3:00 PM. Please limit visits to this time as teachers have meetings as well as much to do to prepare their rooms for the start of school. Typically, we have held a welcome back family picnic hosted by the PTA prior to the start of school. Due to final stages of construction, the picnic will be held in September on a date to be announced.

Community News

P.E.A.C.E. Kids Company, Inc. (Positive/ Energy/ Always/ Conquers/ Everything) will provide our before and after care program at Freedom Elementary this year under the direction of Terry McDonald (410-751-9650). They will provide care for children kindergarten through fifth grade.

PERMISSION TO PHOTOGRAPH, VIDEOTAPE OR AUDIOTAPE

Throughout the school year, the Carroll County Public School System frequently covers school activities and may use your child's photograph, video image, or voice for educational, informational, or public relations purposes, with or without identification by name.

If you do not wish to have your child's voice reproduced on tape or to have his/her image appear in such things as a video, a photograph, or the school website, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their children being audiotaped, photographed, videotaped, or having their image placed on a school website by the school system unless such notification is received.

There are also occasions when the media cover certain school events (such as when a government leader visits a school). If you do not wish to have your child's name or likeness published by the media, you should address your concerns directly to the school involved so that the media is so advised. Please be advised that the school system has no control over the media when they are covering activities such as sporting events and musical programs that are open to the public.

Use of Student Work on Websites or in Publications

There may be times throughout the year when the Carroll County Public School System wishes to display student work on school websites or in publications. If you do not wish to have your child's art, poetry, writing, etc. appear on school websites or in publications, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their child's work being displayed on school websites or in publications unless such notification is received.

VOLUNTEERS

Carroll County Public Schools 2009-2010



Level II Volunteers (classroom helpers, tutors, chaperones, mentors, etc.) are required to attend an annual training session at least seven (7) school days prior to volunteering. School days are defined as days when schools are open for students.

Scheduled training sessions for the 2009-2010 school year will be available by mid-August. Many schools include volunteer training sessions with other school activities/events, so look for dates and times in school newsletters and Alert Now updates. Volunteer training obtained during the 2008-2009 school year is valid through September 30, 2009. Plan to attend a volunteer training session before October 1, 2009 to avoid a break in your volunteer service.

Thanks in advance for supporting student achievement by volunteering in our schools. Additional information about the school system's volunteer program can be obtained by contacting Jane Farver, CCPS Volunteer Program Coordinator, at ejfarve@carrollk12.org or 410-386-1536.

The Board of Education of Carroll County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities. Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities, 410-751-3177. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Office of Community and Media Relations at 410-751-3020 or publicinfo@carrollk12.org, or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

MARKET DAY

Again this school year, Freedom Elementary School will participate in a fundraising food program called **Market Day**. Each month, restaurant-quality food products will be available for purchase. A brochure and order sheet will be coming home once a month with your student. Please take a few minutes to review it and place an order. There are many choices available including appetizers, vegetables, main entrees, desserts, snacks and beverages. Our school will earn profit on your purchases. You can find out more about Market Day at www.marketday.com. Our Account number is: 19349. We are in need of adult volunteers to help at the monthly sale pickup. If you can donate 2 hours of your time (on a monthly basis or just once) or if you have any questions about Market Day, please contact Sue Trageser at 410-552-0336. Our first Market Day sale is Thursday, September 10th.

2009 – 2010 Student Directory Form

Once again this year, the Freedom PTA will be compiling and financing a student directory to distribute to all FES families and staff. This directory costs approximately \$1000 to produce and is intended to be used to allow the Freedom Elementary community to issue invitations, inquire about homework assignments, establish phone trees, etc. This information is not to be used for any type of business solicitations.

The information will be organized by:

1. Classroom list, to include students' names and phone numbers
2. Alphabetical listing by family last name, to include address, phone number, email address, student's first name, grade and class, and parent's/guardian's first names.
 - Please fill out the form if you would like to have your child(ren)'s information included. Please put all the children in your household who attend Freedom on one form.
 - Only include the information that you want to be distributed to the FES community.
 - **PLEASE NOTE: If you do not return this form, your student's information will not be included in the directory, even if it was submitted for last year's directory.**

Forms must be returned by September 15th, 2009, to guarantee inclusion in this year's directory!!

-----Detach and return by September 15, 2009-----

Child 1 - Student Name:

Grade:

Teacher:

Child 2 - Student Name:

Grade:

Teacher:

Child 3 – Student Name:

Grade:

Teacher:

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s):

Address:

Phone – Home:

Cell:

Primary Email Address:

**FREEDOM ELEMENTARY PTA
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM
2009-2010**

Thank you for your interest in joining the PTA.

Yearly membership dues are \$8.00 (cash or check made payable to Freedom PTA).

Please fill out the form below and bring it with you along with your dues payment at the August 20th Open House or at your child's back to school night. If two or more members of your family would like to join the PTA, please include the information for each joining member, and include the \$8 dues for each member.

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email Address _____

Child's Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Child's Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Child's Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Please let us know if you would like more information about or are interested in joining the PTA committees listed below (check the appropriate boxes). Details about each program can be found on the Freedom PTA website – www.freedompta.org:

Welcoming/Membership:

_____ Back to school/end of year picnics

Student Support:

_____ Accelerated Reader program and store

_____ Science Fair

_____ Spelling Bee

_____ Celebration Books

_____ Cultural Programs

Fundraising:

_____ Fall Fundraiser (catalog sale)

_____ Holiday Boutique

_____ Market Day

_____ Spirit Wear

_____ Restaurant Nights

_____ Grocery card programs, Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Soup labels, etc

_____ School Supply Kits

Sunshine:

_____ Staff/teacher special days

_____ Teacher Appreciation Week

Publications:

_____ PTA newsletter

_____ Student directory

Elementary Bus Transportation

Carroll County Public Schools will be providing school bus transportation for ALL elementary school children. If your child will not be riding the school bus, please fill out this form and return it to the Principal. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

I, _____, hereby state that my child, _____, will not be riding the bus to and from school for the 2009-2010 school year. I accept all responsibility and liability for my child. My child's alternative to school bus transportation will be:

_____ Daycare van: Please specify daycare and schedule: _____

_____ Car rider

_____ Walker

I understand that I must request in writing to the Principal if I change my mind and desire to have my child ride the school bus to and from school.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

ATTENTION FREEDOM FAMILIES!!!!!!

Sometimes we forget to register our grocery cards at the beginning of each school year. Please make sure your Martin's, Giant, and Safeway grocery savings cards are registered to benefit our school. Let's get our numbers up and earn the support that our local merchants want to give to our school!

LET'S MAKE FREEDOM #1!!!!

Freedom Elementary School
5626 Sykesville Road
Sykesville, MD 21784



Office Staff Availability:

Thursday and Friday, August 13th and 14th

The Freedom office staff will be relocating to our newly renovated office suite on Thursday and Friday, August 13th and 14th. Please understand that building accessibility and phone service will be compromised by this move and all visits and phone calls should be held until at least Monday, August 17th. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience!