



FREEDOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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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

April 2009 Newsletter

Character Trait of the Month – *Self-Confidence*

“You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them.” Michael Jordan (NBA Star)

Dear Parents,

During April, we will celebrate the truly outstanding group of volunteers we have at Freedom Elementary. We are so fortunate to have such a supportive, talented, and caring group of adults to support Freedom students. They complete countless tasks both at home and at school. On Monday, April 20, we will have an opportunity to honor our volunteers by providing a luncheon. Invitation announcements will come home in the near future. We hope all of our dedicated volunteers will be able to attend.

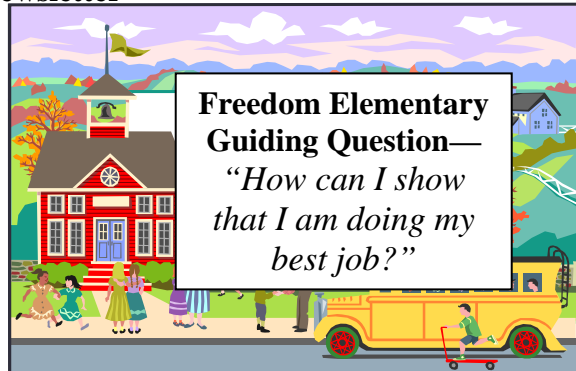
You may be amazed to know that we are already giving a great deal of thought to your child’s class assignments for next year! Let me share with you how your child will be grouped and how the classes will be organized for instruction:

- In May, teachers give a variety of assessments to determine your child’s instructional levels in math, reading and writing.
- In June, all teachers from each grade level meet to organize students into academic groupings so that instruction occurs at just the right level for your child to be successful, yet challenged to grow. They also consider many factors such as the learning style of the student, the teaching style of the teacher, and how the student interacts with certain other students. Resource teachers are consulted as well as our Special Area teachers because they, too, see how each child performs on a daily basis. This is quite a task as the needs of every student are carefully considered. Our teachers do an incredible job because they see the children daily and know how each child operates as a learner!
- In mid-August, class assignments will be listed on the mailing label as part of a newsletter that is sent to each family.
- In August and September, students will be assessed once again to determine if any shifting needs to occur. Throughout the year, if a student’s academic needs are not being met, we will make adjustments so he/she can learn more successfully.
- Throughout the year, students work with many adults. ILA teachers, resource teachers, and instructional assistants work with many different small groups to supplement instruction. It is exciting that students get the opportunity to learn from so many caring adults! We truly do have a talented staff!

As you can see, your child’s interests will always be at the heart of any placement. **Therefore, we will not be placing students in classes based on parental requests so we can ensure that each and every one of our students’ needs are met.** If there is information you would like to have considered as a part of our decision, please send it in writing prior to June 5th. All information provided will be shared with next year’s team to assist in placement.

Richard H. Huss
Principal

Nicole M. Jensen
Assistant Principal



A Note of Appreciation

From: The Freedom family we supported through our most recent fundraiser

To: Freedom PTA, Freedom School Staff, Parents and Community, and to Chili’s

We want to thank everyone for everything they have done for our family. You really don’t know what it means to us knowing that people care and are so very kind to us, at a time when our lives have changed so much. Thank you so much!

Young Authors Contest

Congratulations to our two Freedom students who were winners in this year’s State of Maryland International Reading Association’s Young Authors Contest. Fourth grader Rachel Cueva’s poem *The Halloween Prank* received the first place award for her grade level. In the short story division for fourth grade, Lea Elsner won first place for her entry titled *The Journey of Elly and Kelly*. All county winners will be honored at a local reception featuring children’s author Bobbie Hinman in May.



American Cancer Society Relay for Life

This year as a charity fundraiser, our school is supporting the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. From April 3 until May 1, students and families may purchase the HOPE bracelet for \$2. Bracelets will be on sale at the school store. Each bracelet sold reminds us that together, we are hopeful for a cure. Bracelet colors include: pink, black, purple, or red; however, color availability is limited. Please send cash or checks made out to the American Cancer Society. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Media News

April brings showers of media happenings! It is a short month because of the Spring Break, but so much is packed into media. First, it is our celebration of National Library/Media Month. Fourth and fifth graders will be invited to adopt a shelf in the media center. They will take care of the shelf whenever they can and their name will be placed on that shelf for the remainder of the school year. Displays featuring various authors and their books will be featured this month. Some classes will be participating in events highlighting our wonderful Freedom media center. There will be special morning announcements and one or two surprises.

The media center will also sponsor a Lucky Reader Contest throughout April. When a student checks out a book during media class, he or she may be randomly selected as a Lucky Reader and will be able to choose a brand new book from our Lucky Reader basket.

Yearbooks for Sale

Orders for Freedom Elementary School’s 2008-2009 Yearbook will soon be taken. The cost will be \$18.00 (\$16.98 + \$1.02 tax). Order forms will be sent home in the near future. All payments must be by check. Our full-color yearbook filled with memories is expected to arrive by late May. The price for late orders will be \$20.00 (\$18.87 + \$1.13 tax).

Field Trip Chaperones

We encourage parents and guardians to accompany children on trips when possible. At times the number of chaperones is limited by available bus space or allocation from the location we are visiting. Chaperones are to be parents or legal guardians over the age of 21. Please be sure you have completed the required volunteer training **prior** to signing up to chaperone.



When volunteering at school for staff or PTA, please do not bring younger children with you. This is part of the policy for CCPS Volunteer Program and is in place for safety and liability reasons.

GOODSEARCH.COM

Go to www.goodsearch.com and select Freedom Elementary as the non-profit you wish to support. For every internet search you do, we receive a penny. Pennies make dollars!

2008-2009 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.):**
April 8th May 12th

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, TTY (410) 751-3034, or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157 at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

**Making a Difference Together
 SCHEDULED TRAINING SESSIONS
 April 2009**

Level II Volunteers (*classroom helpers, chaperones, mentors, classroom tutors, etc.*) **are required to attend an annual training session at least seven (7) school days prior to volunteering.** Please call the number provided to confirm that the training session is being held on the day and at the time listed on the schedule.

Inclement weather may cause the cancellation of a scheduled training session. Please reference the school system’s Inclement Weather Policy, located on Page 20 in the 2008-2009 CCPS Informational Calendar, for specifics.

Allow adequate time so you can arrive at the training location in a timely manner. The training session will begin promptly at the scheduled time, and those arriving after the starting time may be asked to attend another session.

DATE	SCHOOL + precedes a school event/activity * follows a school event/activity # part of a school event/activity	TIME	CONTACT Please call the number provided to confirm the scheduled training session.
2	Eldersburg Elementary	9:30 AM	410-751-3520
2	Manchester Elementary	6:00 PM	410-751-3410
2	+ Manchester Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3410
2	Hampstead Elementary	6:45 PM	410-751-3420
2	Eldersburg Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3520
7	Carrolltowne Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3530
14	+ Wm. Winchester Elem.	6:00 PM	410-751-3230
14	+ Piney Ridge Elementary	6:15 PM	410-751-3535
14	Sandymount Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3215
15	Linton Springs Elementary	10:00 AM	410-751-3280
15	Westminster High	2:45 PM	410-751-3630
15	Linton Springs Elementary	4:00 PM	410-751-3280
15	+ Parr’s Ridge Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3559
15	Linton Springs Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3280
16	Friendship Valley Elem.	6:00 PM	410-751-3650
16	West Middle	7:30 PM	410-751-3661
22	North Carroll Middle	7:00 PM	410-751-3440
28	Winfield Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3242

F.Y.I. Gifted and Talented Program Information

When students are screened for gifted and talented intervention, outstanding academic ability and certain characteristics and thought processes are observed and documented. Teachers look for students who possess a wealth of information about selected topics and/or are able to grasp information quickly and remember it with little practice. They observe students who are able to understand general concepts and make abstractions and connections between seemingly unrelated topics and ideas. If a student possesses some or all of these abilities, he or she can be screened for identification.

Components of the Gifted and Talented Education Program Individual Student Profile

All data in each of the following areas are rated as strong, moderate or weak evidence that gifted and talented services are needed or appropriate.

Multiple Data Points

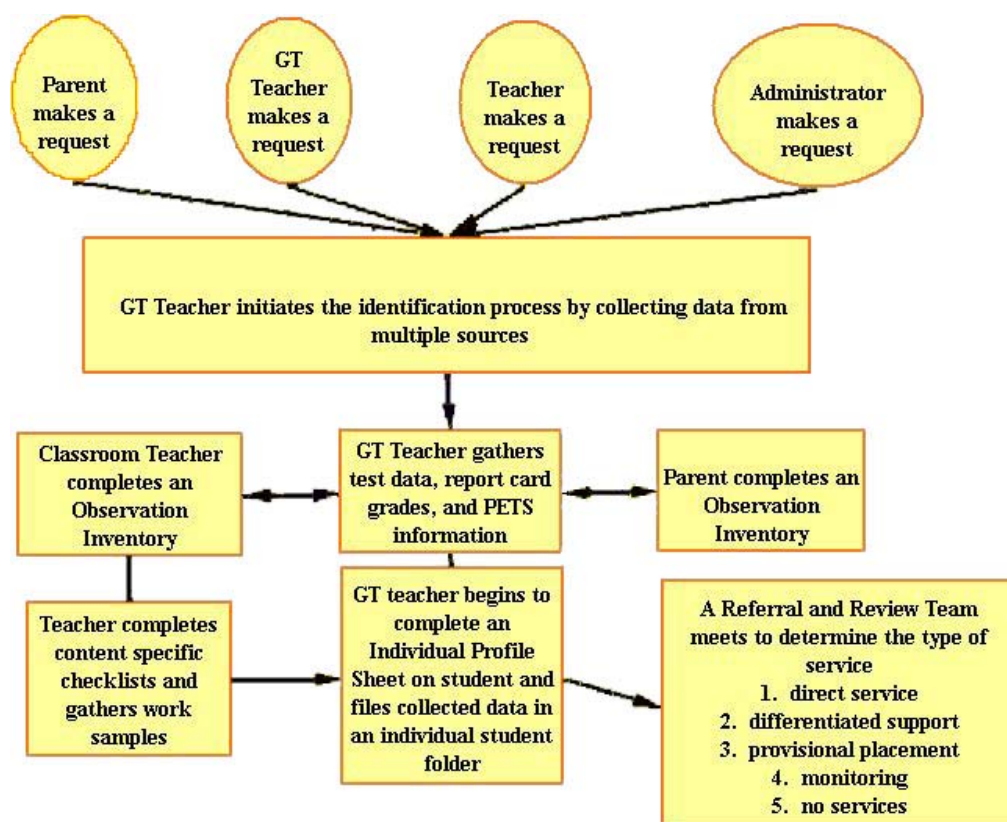
- Teacher Observation Checklist – includes characteristics of gifted students
- Parent/Guardian Observation Checklist – includes characteristics of gifted students as seen by parent
- Primary Education Thinking Skills (PETS) Individual Checklist – includes data from second grade thinking skills program
- Content Specific Checklist – observations from teachers on content specific behaviors of gifted students
- Production Data – work samples provided by teacher and/or parent
- Cognitive Ability Test – aptitude test given to nominated students
- Maryland School Assessment – achievement tests taken by 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students
- Academic Instructional Reading Level
- Academic Instructional Mathematics Level
- Report Card Grade and Work Habits

Once all of the data have been reviewed by the Gifted and Talented Referral and Review Team, one or more of the following recommendations are made in order to differentiate instruction:

- ILA/Math Enrichment Services
- Provisional Placement in ILA/Math Enrichment Services (reevaluation of placement to occur after each unit or mid-year)
- Accelerated Mathematics (above-grade level grouping)
- Differentiated Support Services (classroom teacher receives resources from GT resource teacher to help meet needs of student in regular classroom)
- Monitoring and annual review (student is reviewed again mid-year and end-of-year or when new data is available)
- No GT interventions needed at this time

The Referral and Review Team convenes 3 times a year – fall, winter, spring or as needed.

GT Program Referral and Review Team






The Referral and Review Team consists of school based professionals, which may include an administrator, the GT teacher, a school counselor, and classroom teachers.

Evaluation for gifted and talented intervention begins in the spring of second grade and continues throughout the school year for grades 3, 4, and 5. The chart above illustrates the sequence of steps involved in the screening process.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact your school's Gifted and Talented Resource Teacher.

APRIL 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Beef-A-Roni Roll Fresh Veggies w/ Dip Rainbow Apples Fruit	2 Sliced Turkey Sub French Fries Peaches Pudding	3 Pizza Tossed Salad Fruit Cookie
6 Chicken Tenders Potato Rounds Roll Rosy Applesauce Cookie	7 Meatball Sub Vegetable Soup Coleslaw Pears Orange Crème Bar	8 Pizza Tossed Salad Fruit Cookie	Happy Spring !!!!	
13 SCHOOLS CLOSED	14 Chicken Patty on Roll Cheesy Mashed Potatoes Applesauce Cookie	15 Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla Chicken Noodle Soup Coleslaw Pears Brownie	16 Soft or Hard Shell Taco w/ Cheese Shredded Lettuce Corn and Rice Peaches Pretzel Twists	17 Pizza Hot Vegetable Fruit Cookie
20 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Pizza Soup Applesauce Fudge Bar	21 Scrambled Egg Sausage Patty Pancake Juice Baked Cinnamon Apples Breakfast For Lunch	22 Chicken Nuggets w/ Choice of Sauces French Fries Hot Vegetable Peaches Jello 	23 Breadsticks w/ Meat Sauce Hot Vegetable Pears Fruit	24 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Tossed Salad Fruit Cookie
27 Popcorn Chicken Roll Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Fresh Veggies w/ Dip Fruit Cookie	28 Oven Baked Cheesesticks w/ Dipping Sauce Green Beans Peaches Fruit Juice Bar LUCKY TRAY DAY !!!!	29 Sliced Turkey , Ham & Cheese Sub Chicken Noodle Soup Applesauce Cookie	30 Soft or Hard Tacos w/Cheese Shredded Lettuce Corn and Rice Fruit Pretzel Twists	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2009</h1>						
			1 7 PM PTA Meeting 6 PM Family Life Parent Preview Grades 4 & 5	2 PTA Program Reptile World 6:30 PM Science Fair	3 Game Club	4
5	6 7 PM Market Day Pick-Up	7 5:45 PM Incoming Kindergarten Dinner and Program (by prior reservation)	8 2 hour 45 minute Early Dismissal (12:20PM) Marking Period Ends 5 PM Board of Ed. Mtg.	9 Schools/Offices Closed	10 Schools/Offices Closed	11
12	13 Schools/Offices Closed	14	15	16	17 1 st Grade Field Trip	18
19	20 Volunteer Luncheon	21 Report Cards Go Home	22 MSA Science Grade 5 1 PM Board of Ed. Mtg. 2 PM Work Session	23 MSA Science Grade 5	24 MSA Science Grade 5 7 PM PTA Family Night BINGO	25
26	27 MSA Science Grade 5 Kindergarten Math Benchmarks	28 Field Trip Grade 3 (4 classes) Kindergarten Math Benchmarks	29 Kindergarten Math Benchmarks	30 Math Around the World Day Kindergarten Math Benchmarks		