



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

March 2009 Newsletter

Character Trait of the Month

March - Self-Discipline/Dependability

"One-half of life is luck; the other half is discipline – and that's the important half, for without discipline you wouldn't know what to do with luck." Carl Zuckmeyer

Dear Parents,

Freedom students in grades 3-5 will soon participate in the Maryland School Assessment (MSA). The following covers general information about the MSA in a question/answer format.

What is MSA? MSA stands for Maryland School Assessment. It is a statewide test that is given each year in reading and math. All students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 will take the MSA in both reading and math. Grade 5 students will also be assessed in science.

Why is my child being tested? The federal law called *No Child Left Behind Act* requires that ALL students will be proficient in reading and math by the year 2014. The law requires that each state have a reading and math test for each grade to show whether the students are proficient. Maryland meets this requirement by using the MSA to test students in reading and math.

What do the scores tell me about my child's performance? Your child's test scores indicate two things: 1) How well your child has learned the reading and math content that all Maryland students should know, and 2) How your child performed in reading and math compared to other students around the nation.

How are the tests scored? Each child's performance is graded as Basic, Proficient, or Advanced. **BASIC** is the lowest level of performance. **PROFICIENT** is the middle level of performance and the minimum goal that all students must reach. **ADVANCED** is the highest level of performance.

How should I use this information to help my child? MSA scores are only one indication of your child's reading and math performance. You should discuss your child's day-to-day performance on class work, homework, projects, and other tests and quizzes with your child's teacher. If your child achieves BASIC on the MSA, teachers and administrators will be offering extra services to help your child reach the PROFICIENT level the next year.

How long is my child involved in testing? There are four days of testing: two for reading and two for math. Testing lasts approximately 90 minutes each day with short breaks during this time. The MSA will be given this year on March 16, 17, 23, and 24. Grade 5 will take MSA science between April 22nd and 27th.

Which children take the test? ALL children in grades 3, 4, and 5, including those with disabilities and limited English proficiency, are included in the testing. We cannot leave any child behind.

What kinds of questions are on the MSA? The test includes multiple-choice and BCR (brief constructed response) questions. The students work independently on the entire test. There is no group work on the MSA.

How can I see sample test questions? Sample test questions are on the internet at www.mdk12.org. You may also call 1-888-246-0016 or 410-767-0600 to obtain copies of sample questions.

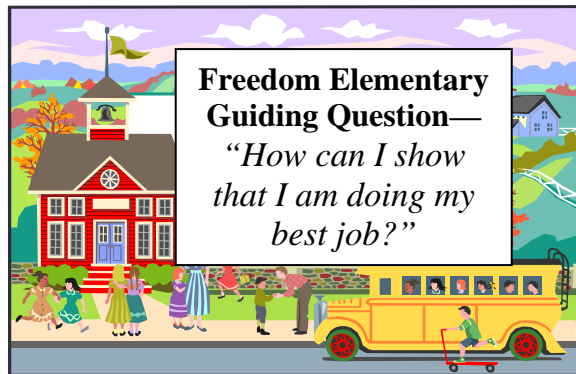
How can I get more information on content standards, academic expectations, or other assessments? You can check the Maryland State Department of Education Report Card website at

www.mdreportcard.org to learn more about the performance of your child's school and school systems, as well as the state. The website www.marylandpublicschools.org will allow you to access recent news releases or MSDE-TV, which provides information in a video format.

The MSA will give Freedom students in grades 3-5 yet another way to show that they do their best job each and every day. Thank you for your continued help and support. Outstanding things happen at Freedom thanks to the cooperative efforts of students, parents, and staff. Sincerely,

Richard H. Huss
Principal

Nicole M. Jensen
Assistant Principal



Kindergarten Registration 2009-2010

Registration for kindergarten for the 2009 - 2010 school year will be held the week of March 9-13, 2009 at the elementary school in your attendance area. Enrollment in kindergarten is mandatory for children who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2009.

Parents will need to present the following at the time of registration:

- a copy of their child's birth certificate or other legal document to verify their child's legal name and birth date
- verification of residence such as a public utility bill or a lease agreement
- specific address from which the child will be transported to school and the specific address to which the child will be transported after school.

For additional information, please contact the school office.

You haven't missed the bell!



We accept applications for free and reduced-price meals all year long.

NEED HELP?

Families who lose jobs or see their income drop can apply for lunch aid, even if they didn't qualify at the beginning of the school year. Applications are available by request at school.

Spelling Bee

Freedom's 3rd annual spelling bee will be May 4 at 7:00 p.m. Fourth and fifth graders will be given a written spelling test near the end of March. The students who score in the top 10-20% (approximately) of their grade will be asked to participate in the spelling bee on May 4th. Don't get stung, the bee has come!



Keys for Reading

Frederick Keys is sponsoring **The Carroll County Keys for Reading** program this year. The reading program will conclude on April 3rd. Each student received a bookmark to complete by reading four books and recording the titles on it. The bookmark must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the student's homeroom teacher. Students who successfully complete the program will receive a free ticket to watch the Frederick Keys play baseball on Friday, May 8th or Saturday, May 9th.

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). Orders 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).

Fieldtrip 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.

Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Teacher Awards

We are fortunate to have an amazing teaching staff at Freedom!! Several teachers have been nominated for the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Teacher Awards. Congratulations to **Mrs. Jane Castner, Ms. Laura Gibson, Mrs. Jill Knouse, Mrs. Karen Smith, Mrs. Kim Stanton, Mrs. Sarah Warner, and Mrs. Amy Wunder**. A reception to recognize nominees for the 21st Carroll County Outstanding Teacher Award will be held at Winters Mill High School on Wednesday, April 1, 2009.



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.):**

**March 18th April 8th May 12th
June 15th and June 16th (currently scheduled to be the final student days pending calendar adjustment for inclement weather)**

Community News

Opening Knights, Century High School's Drama Club, will be presenting the musical **Oliver**. Performances will take place in Century High School's theater on March 12, 13, 14, 20, and 21 at 7:00 p.m., with matinees March 14 and 21 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 per person and can be purchased in advance at the box office of the CHS auditorium starting on March 2, Monday through Thursday, between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.centurydrama.com.

2009 Camps and Summer Programs Fair

This event sponsored by *Baltimore's Child* features programs for summer of 2009 and will be held on Sunday, March 8, noon – 3 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Timonium, 2004 Greenspring Drive. The Arc of Baltimore joins *Baltimore's Child* in sponsoring the Camp for Everyone section of the fair. Families of children and adults with special needs can make summer plans for every member of the family. Admission and parking are free. For more information please call 410-367-5883 or log on to www.BaltimoresChild.com.

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
March 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.

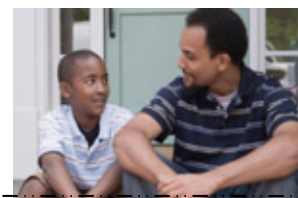
DATE	SCHOOL + precedes a school event/activity * follows a school event/activity # part of a school event/activity	TIME	CONTACT Please call the number provided to confirm the scheduled training session.
3	+ Ebb Valley Elementary	6:30 PM	410-386-1550
7	+ Westminster High	6:00 PM	410-751-3630
10	+ Wm. Winchester Elem.	6:00 PM	410-751-3230
10	+ Piney Ridge Elementary	6:15 PM	410-751-3535
11	# Francis Scott Key High	5:00 PM	410-751-3320
11	+ Cranberry Station Elem.	6:30 PM	410-386-4440
11	Oklahoma Road Middle	7:00 PM	410-751-3600
12	West Middle	7:30 PM	410-751-3661
13	Linton Springs Elementary	10:00 AM	410-751-3280
13	+ Westminster High	7:00 PM	410-751-3630
16	Robert Moton Elementary	6:00 PM	410-751-3610
17	Linton Springs Elementary	4:00 PM	410-751-3280
18	+ Mt. Airy Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3540
19	Winfield Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3242
25	Linton Springs Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3280
25	Shiloh Middle	7:00 PM	410-386-4570
31	+ Ebb Valley Elementary	6:30 PM	410-386-1550



Not My Child “Help and Hope for Carroll County’s Youth”

“I think my child is drinking and using drugs – what can I do?”

March 2009



“A MESSAGE FROM THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG-FREE AMERICA”

[I Think My Child Is Drinking and Using Drugs](#)

Discovering that a teen is using drugs or alcohol can be a scary experience for parents. You may feel alone, ashamed, guilty, and confused about what to do next. We want to be the first to tell you about our new online resource for parents and caregivers who suspect or know that their child is experimenting, using, or has a problem with alcohol or drugs: [Time To Act!](#)

Through video and interactive multimedia modules, [Time To Act!](#) offers step-by-step advice and compassionate guidance from substance abuse experts, family therapists, scientists and fellow parents to help steer families through the process of understanding alcohol and drug use, confronting a child, setting boundaries, and seeking outside help.

[Have a Conversation Not a Confrontation](#)

Finding out your teen uses drugs or is drinking definitely stirs up a parent's emotions. But the best way to help your teen - and to make sure she hears you - is to remain as calm as possible throughout the conversation. Here are other things to keep in mind:

Hold off until he or she is sober. Do not start the conversation when you can tell your child is drunk or high.

Show your concern. Express to your child that you're worried about her.

Keep a cool head. Try your best not to overreact to what your child has done in the past. Instead, focus on making it clear what you want him or her to do in the future.

Be direct. Clearly state your concerns as well as any evidence you've found. ("You're not showering, your grades have dropped, and I found empty beer cans in your car.")

Listen. Don't do all the talking. Be sure to give your child a chance to speak, and listen to what he or she has to say.



Learn more tips for having [more productive conversations](#) .

["And the Oscar Goes To..."](#)



The award show season is in full gear: Golden Globes, Grammy Awards and Academy Awards, just to name a few. What role do drugs and alcohol play in all of this? Those watching these award shows will be entertained with storylines and suggestions of drugs/alcohol in songs and movies, celebrities' real-life experiences, and even references to drinking and drug use while presenting and accepting awards.

Read a recent [post about the Golden Globes on our blog Decoder](#) - and let us know what you think about celebrity behavior and the message it sends to our kids. And stay tuned, because there will be more on this topic on Decoder in the coming months - and we want to hear what you think!

** This information was taken from an email bulletin from The Partnership for a Drug-Free America. More alcohol and drug information for parents, educators, and teens is available on their website: www.Drugfree.org.

If students are worried about a personal drug or alcohol problem or are concerned about a friend, they are encouraged to make a phone call that could save a life! This toll-free, anonymous phone number is printed on all CCPS student ID cards.





1-866-367-0968

24 / 7 live coverage, Toll-Free & ANONYMOUS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2009</h1>						
1	2	3	4 7PM PTA Mtg.	5	6 Game Club	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins	9 Kindergarten Registration 9:00AM-2:30PM	10 Kindergarten Registration 9:00AM-2:30PM	11 Kindergarten Registration 9:00AM-2:30PM 5PM Board of Ed Mtg.	12 Kindergarten Registration 9:00AM-2:30PM 7PM Market Day Pick-Up	13 Kindergarten Registration 9:00AM-2:30PM Vision & Hearing Rescreening Game Club	14
15	16 MSA Grades 3-5	17 MSA Grades 3-5	18 2 hour 45 minute Early Dismissal (12:20PM)	19	20 Game Club	21
22	23 MSA Grades 3-5	24 MSA Grades 3-5	25 Grades 2 & 4 Safety Program 1 PM Board of Ed. Mtg.	26 Picture Day	27 Game Club	28
29	30 Grades 4 & 5 Flag Program	31				

MARCH 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Turkey , Ham, & Cheese Sub Vegetable Soup Applesauce Pudding 	3 Chicken Nuggets w/ Choice of Sauces Potato Rounds Roll Fresh Veggies w/ Dip Fruit Juice Bar	4 Scrambled Eggs Sausage Patty Pancake w/ Syrup Orange Juice Baked Cinnamon Apples Breakfast for Lunch	5 Spaghetti w/ MeatBalls Tossed Salad French Bread Rainbow Apples Jello	6 Pizza Green Beans Peaches Cookie
NATIONAL		SCHOOL		WEEK
9 Chicken Patty on Roll Chicken Rice Soup Coleslaw Fruit Cookie	10 Soft or Hard Shell Tacos w/Cheese Shredded Lettuce Corn & Rice Peaches Cracker Traxs	11 Meatball Sub Chicken Noodle Soup Carrots & Celery Sticks Rosy Applesauce Brownie	12 Sliced Turkey Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Green Peas Roll Spring Dessert  Spring Dinner	13 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Tossed Salad Fruit Cookie
16 Grilled Ham & Cheese Sand. Pizza Soup Fruit Cookie	17 Popcorn Chicken French Fries Roll Pears St. Patrick's Day Dessert 	18 Pizzas Tossed Salad Fruit Animal Crackers Early Dismissal---No Extras	19 Breadsticks w/ Meat Sauce Broccoli Peaches Orange Crème Bar	20 Pizza Hot Vegetable Fruit Cookie
23 Chicken Tenders Cheesy Mashed Potatoes Roll Peaches Cherry Crisp	24 Oven Baked Cheesesticks w/ Dipping Sauce Hot Vegetable Applesauce Fruit Juice Bar	25 Corn Dog on a Stick Chicken Noodle Soup Tater Tots Fruit Cookie New Menu Item---	26 Soft or Hard Shell Taco w/ Cheese Shredded Lettuce Corn & Rice Peaches Pretzel Twists	27 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Tossed Salad Fruit Cookie
30 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Pizza Soup Pears Fudge Bar 	31 Chicken Nuggets w/ Choice of Sauce Potato Rounds Roll Fruit Cookie		