



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 2010 Newsletter

Character Trait of the Month

March – Self-Discipline/Dependability

“Ability without dependability is worthless.” Unknown

Dear Parents,

Freedom students in grades 3, 4, and 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 each state to 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 9, 10, 16, and 17. Grade 5 will take MSA science between April 21 and 27.

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.

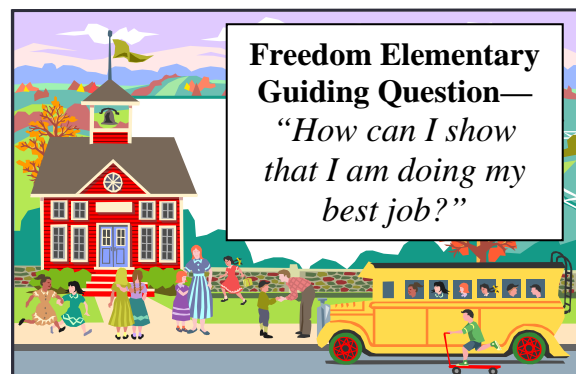
How can I get more information on content standards, academic expectations, or other assessments? You can check the Maryland State Department of Education Report Card website at www.mdreportcard.org to learn more about the performance of your child’s school and school systems, as well as the state. The 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, 4, and 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



Yearbooks for Sale

Orders for Freedom Elementary School's 2009-2010 Yearbook will soon be taken. The cost will be \$18.00 (\$16.98 + \$1.02 tax) for early bird orders prior to May 10. 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 orders after May 10 will be \$20.00 (\$18.87 + \$1.13 tax).

2009-2010 School Calendar

Early Dismissal Dates

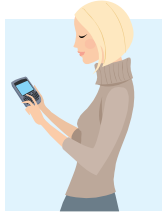
Please take notice of the early dismissals that are built into this year's calendar. Please note that lunch is served on all early dismissal days but extras (ice cream, etc.) are not. **The following dates are scheduled to have 2 hour and 45 minute early dismissals (Freedom dismissal at 12:20 p.m.):**

March 15th

April 1st

May 11th

June 10th



Returning to the Classroom for Forgotten Items

As a reminder, Freedom Elementary School policy states that children are not permitted to return to the classroom after the school day for forgotten items such as homework, books, etc. There are several purposes behind this policy.

- Students learn at an early age to accept



responsibility, especially for their own learning.

- Our building can be a safe, secure environment for those who are working after hours.
- Staff members can complete their duties without interruptions.

Our students are given 15 minutes at the end of the school day to pack up before dismissal, which we believe is more than enough time. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Kindergarten Registration 2010-2011

Registration for kindergarten is scheduled for the week of **March 22nd – 26th** between **9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.** Kindergarten is mandatory in the state of Maryland. Every child admitted to the kindergarten program in the public schools of the state of Maryland shall be at least five years of age **on or before September 1, 2010.** A parent can apply for a "One Year Level of Maturity Kindergarten Waiver" if the parent feels this is in the best interest of the child. Forms are available from our school office.

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!

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.

SCHEDULED VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSIONS

March 2010



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. School days are defined as days when schools are open for students.** 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. 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.
March 2	+ Cranberry Station Elem.	6:30 PM	410-386-4440
March 2	Elmer Wolfe Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3307
March 2	* Ebb Valley Elementary	7:30 PM	410-386-1550
March 4	Friendship Valley Elem.	6:00 PM	410-751-3650
March 8	Northwest Middle	6:00 PM	410-751-3270
March 8	+ Wm. Winchester Elem.	6:00 PM	410-751-3230
March 9	+ Mt. Airy Middle	5:30 PM	410-751-3554
March 10	Francis Scott Key High	5:30 PM	410-751-3320
March 10	Oklahoma Road Middle	7:00 PM	410-751-3600
March 15	Elmer Wolfe Elementary	2:00 PM	410-751-3307
March 16	Robert Moton Elementary	5:30 PM	410-751-3610
March 16	Winfield Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3242
March 16	West Middle	7:30 PM	410-751-3661
March 17	Mt. Airy Elementary	6:30 PM	410-751-3540
March 18	Eldersburg Elementary	9:30 AM	410-751-3520
March 18	Eldersburg Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3520
March 29	Carrolltowne Elementary	7:00 PM	410-751-3530
March 30	* Ebb Valley Elementary	7:30 PM	410-386-1550

CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OUT-OF-DISTRICT REQUESTS FOR THE 2010 - 2011 SCHOOL YEAR

On January 22, 2010, out-of-district applications will be available in school offices. Board policy states that students who attend Carroll County Public Schools shall attend school in their designated attendance area. However, in very specific and limited circumstances, students may be placed in a school outside their attendance area if an approvable circumstance is deemed to exist.

Parents/legal guardians desiring an out-of-district placement for their child should carefully review the list of approvable circumstances listed on the back of the out-of-district application to determine whether the child meets the criteria for approval. The Carroll County Public Schools' out-of-district policy and regulation will be strictly adhered to in making decisions regarding admission of students to schools outside of their assigned attendance area.

The only Carroll County Public Schools designated as "OPEN" for the 2010-2011 school year are as follows:

<u>ELEMENTARY</u>	
Cranberry Station Elementary	Robert Moton Elementary
Ebb Valley Elementary	Runnymede Elementary
Elmer Wolfe Elementary	Sandymount Elementary
Hampstead Elementary	Spring Garden Elementary
Manchester Elementary	Taneytown Elementary
Mt. Airy Elementary	Winfield Elementary
Parr's Ridge Elementary	
<u>MIDDLE</u>	
New Windsor Middle	Oklahoma Road Middle
North Carroll Middle	Shiloh Middle
Northwest Middle	
<u>HIGH</u>	
Francis Scott Key High	North Carroll High
Manchester Valley High	

All other Carroll County Public Schools will be designated as "CLOSED" for the 2010-2011 school year. This means that any out-of-district application submitted for placement to a "CLOSED" school for the 2010-2011 school year will be denied unless it meets the limited criteria for admission to a "CLOSED" school.

Parents/legal guardians who plan to submit out-of-district applications for the 2010-2011 school year need to be aware of the following procedures:

- It is the parent's/legal guardian's responsibility to obtain an out-of-district application from the school office or the Student Services Department. These applications will be available on January 22, 2010, *but not before*. Please be certain that the application obtained is for the 2010-2011 school year. Completed out-of-district applications may not be returned to the school office.
- The deadline for out-of-district applications for the 2010-2011 school year is **April 1, 2010**. Completed applications must be **postmarked or personally delivered** by the deadline date to:

Carroll County Public Schools
Student Services Department
125 North Court Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

- Applications postmarked/received after the deadline date of **April 1, 2010** will be returned to the sender without consideration.

QUESTIONS REGARDING OUT-OF-DISTRICT ISSUES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE SCHOOL'S PUPIL PERSONNEL WORKER, Sherry Pyles, at 410-751-3118.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2010</h1>						
	1	2	3 7PM PTA Meeting	4 Interim Reports Go Home (as needed)	5 Game Club	6
7	8	9 MSA Grades 3-5	10 MSA Grades 3-5 5PM Board of Ed. Mtg.	11 7PM Market Day Pick-Up	12 Game Club	13
14	15 2 hour 45 minute Early Dismissal (12:20PM)	16 MSA Grades 3-5	17 MSA Grades 3-5	18	19 Game Club	20
21	22 Kindergarten Registration 9:00AM-2:30PM	23 Kindergarten Registration 9:00AM-2:30PM	24 Kindergarten Registration 9:00AM-2:30PM PTA Math-a-Thon Fundraiser 1PM Board of Ed. Mtg.	25 Kindergarten Registration 9:00AM-2:30PM Picture Day	26 Kindergarten Registration 9:00AM-2:30PM Game Club	27
28	29	30	31			



MARCH 2010



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Hamburger or Cheeseburger on Roll Vegetable Soup Applesauce Cookie	2 ABC Chicken Nuggets Potato Rounds Roll Fresh Veggies w/ Dip Fruit Juice Bar Dr. Seuss' Birthday	3 Bar-B-Que Chicken Roll Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Hot Vegetable Roll Fruit	4 Beef-A-Roni Tossed Salad Garlic Bread Hot Vegetable Fruit	5 Pizza Green Beans Fruit Cookie
8 Ham , Turkey & Cheese Sub Chicken Noodle Soup Tater Tots Fruit	9 Popcorn Chicken Bowl Roll Cole Slaw Rainbow Apples	10 Scrambled Egg Sausage Patty Pancake w/Syrup Juice Baked Cinnamon Apples Breakfast For Lunch	11 Soft or Hard Shell Taco Shredded Lettuce Corn & Rice Applesauce Fruit	12 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Tossed Salad Peaches Cookie
15 Pizzatas Hot Vegetable Fruit Animal Crackers Early Dismissal -- No Extras	16 Popcorn Chicken Hot Vegetable Roll Fruit Cup	17 Hot Ham & Cheese on Roll OR Manager's Choice Wrap Chicken Noodle Soup Veggies w/ Dip Pears St. Patrick's Day Dessert St. Patrick's Day	18 Breadsticks w/ Meat Sauce Broccoli Peaches Jello	19 Pizza Hot Vegetable Fruit Cookie
22 Chicken Patty on Roll Cheesy Mashed Potatoes Hot Vegetable Fruit	23 Oven Baked Cheesesticks w/ Dipping Sauce Hot Vegetable Applesauce Fruit Juice Bar	24 Chicken Tenders Baked Beans Coleslaw Roll Fruit Cup	25 Sliced Turkey Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Green Peas or Sauerkraut Roll Spring Dessert Spring Dinner 	26 Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza Tossed Salad Pears Cookie
29 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Pizza Soup Pears Cookie 	30 Chicken Nuggets w/ Choice of Sauce Potato Rounds Roll Baked Cinnamon Apples	31 Soft or Hard Shell Taco w/ Cheese Shredded Lettuce Corn & Rice Peaches	 Happy St. Patrick's Day!	

ORMS PTA NEEDS YOU

Do you want to make a difference in our school? We've got the answer. The ORMS PTA Nominating Committee is seeking your help to fill a number of vacancies for officers, chair people and committee members for the 2010-2011 school year. This is your chance to provide some new and innovative ideas for your school. Giving of your time, talent and ability will not only help our school, but also will enhance our children's learning. Your role may be as large or as small as you prefer. Please help us by volunteering where your time allows. A brief description of the responsibilities of the vacant officer positions, as well as each of the committees is given below. Remember, any time that you can give will be greatly appreciated. If you are interested, please complete the attached form and return it to school as soon as possible. **TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Officers Vacancies:

President: responsible for overall running of ORMS PTA according to State and National by-laws; chairs all executive board and general membership meetings; oversees all committees and is to be available to assist if needed.

1st Vice President: assist President when needed; chairs by-laws revision committee; co-ordinates nominating committee according to guidelines and by-laws.

2nd Vice President: assists President when needed ; keeps track of motions made

Recording Secretary: records minutes of all Executive and General Meetings; maintains a separate binder to hold all recorded minutes for the PTA which becomes an historical archive

Corresponding Secretary: conducts all correspondence as directed by the President; sends new officer list to state office within one month of election.

Committees:

CCCPTA: Responsible for representing ORMS PTA at all Carroll County Council of PTAs meetings and reporting all information back to the executive board.

Cultural Arts: Responsible for selection and booking of performers into ORMS to inform, enlighten and entertain the students; tries to coordinate as many cultural programs as possible with the school curriculum; sends surveys to teachers and students to provide feedback on each cultural program.

Curriculum Council: Attends Curriculum Council county meetings as scheduled by the Board of Education; reports back to the executive board; 2 votes per school allowed on proposed school books each year.

Family Life: Attends county Family Life meeting as scheduled (usually once per year).

Hospitality: Responsible for purchase, set-up, and serving of refreshments at all meetings or special events as designated by the President; responsible for Welcome Back breakfast and parent/teacher conference dinner.

Legislative (Advocacy): Responsible for keeping informed of current legislative issues that effect children at the state and national levels; responsible for informing PTA membership and executive board of pertinent issues at the state and national level.

Membership: Responsible for September membership drive including publicity, collection, and incentives; must be present at "Back to School" nights to accept enrollment and dues; informs treasurer of membership count for payment of dues to the State.

Parent Workshops: Plans and organizes informative workshops on timely subject matters to help parents with various parenting issues.

Parent Information/High School Liaison: Responsible for informing members of the issues and events occurring at Liberty High School that will affect current middle school students; responsible for supplying the Eldersburg Library with current parenting information from PTA, which coordinates with Sykesville Middle School information; has information table at selected events as directed by the President.

Partnership Schools: A new committee of parents and teachers who will work to develop productive programs of school-family-community partnerships in order for families and communities to become informed about and involved in children's education at school and at home. As part of the National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University, researchers, educators, parents, students, community members, and others will work together to enable all elementary, middle, and high schools develop and maintain effective programs of partnership. For more information visit their website at www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000.

Publicity: Responsible for publicizing upcoming and past ORMS events using TV, radio, newspapers, newsletters, etc.

School Board Representative: Responsible for updating executive board on information gained from Board of Education meetings.

School Improvement Team (SIT): Attends school based SIT meeting representing the PTA; keeps PTA informed of needs.

Sunshine: Responsible for sending cards to all faculty and staff members in times of birth, death, marriage, hospitalization, retirement; responsible for recognition of special events such as Secretary's Day, Bus Driver Appreciation Week, and Staff Appreciation Week.

Volunteers: Responsible for coordination of parent volunteer program including assessment and implementation; maintains a list of available volunteers for on-call special requests of executive board and ORMS staff.

Ways and Means: Responsible for selection and implementation of fund-raising programs to benefit ORMS students.

8th Grade Picnic/Party: Works with a committee of 8th grade parents and teachers to plan the picnic and dance at the end of the year for 8th graders.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Maggio (410-552-5654). A member of the Nominating Committee will contact you to verify your choices.

Please check the position and/or committees on which you would like to volunteer:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 st Vice President | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Info/High School Liaison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recording Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Workshops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corresponding Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/Legislative | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> School Improvement |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> School Board Representative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CCC PTA Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunshine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Ways and Means |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Life | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 th Grade Picnic/Party |

NAME _____ PHONE: _____