

Freeman Public Schools
415 Eighth Street
PO Box 259
Adams NE 68301-0259

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

[FREE AND REDUCED APPLICATIONS LINK](#)

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL-The first day of classes for Elementary and Secondary students will be Thursday, August 10th. There will be an early dismissal of 1pm. No breakfast will be served. **Preschool students will start Monday, August 14th.**

OPEN HOUSE-ACTIVITY FAIR TUESDAY, AUGUST 8TH

Junior Class Fundraiser Hot Dog Meal 5:30-8pm. Activity Fair 5:30-6:30 at South Gym. Open House will be from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Senior student/parent meeting will be at 7:30pm. Please come to the school, bring your student(s) and visit the classrooms. You are welcome to bring your child's school supplies that evening. The supply list is available on the Freeman website (www.freemanpublicschools.org) Click on Parent Portal. On the left hand side, click on Classroom Supply List.


SCHOOL PICTURES

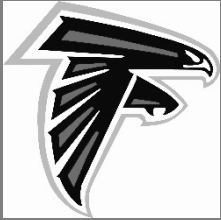
Student and staff pictures will be taken by Pictures with Class on Wednesday, August 23rd starting at 7:45 am. All students will have their picture taken for the yearbook and student ID/lunch cards. More information to follow. If you would like to volunteer to help with picture day, please contact Angie in the elementary office.

FALL PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday and Wednesday, October 16 & 18. Online sign up will be sent out at a later time.

August, 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Fall Sports Conditioning	2 6pm 7th Grade Orientation 8:30am Activity Eligibility Meeting @North HS Commons Fall Sports Conditioning 10:30am-12pm JH Ftbl Camp	3 Fall Sports Conditioning 9:30am-11:30am JH Football Camp	4 Fall Sports Conditioning	5
6	7 First Day of Fall Sports Practice Teacher In-Service	8 5:30pm-6:30pm Activity Fair @ South Gym 6:30pm-7:30pm Open House 7:30pm Seniors and Parents Meeting Teacher In-Service	9 Teacher In-Service @ Freeman	10 First Day of School 1pm Early Out Beginning of Q1/S1 @ Freeman	11	12
13	14 7pm Board of Education Meeting Pre-School First Day	15	16	17 5pm Sftball-JV @ Zion 6:30pm Sftball-V @ Zion 5pm Vball V @ Beatrice High School	18 Sports Drink Scrimmage @ Multiple Locations	19 8am FFA Color Run @ Adams City Park 5pm MUSIC Comm Day Band Concert @ Adams City Park 10am Sftball-V @ Doris Bair
20	21	22	23 7:45am Picture Day @ FHS South Gym	24 5pm Sftball-JV @ Ashland-Greenwood HS 6:30pm Sftball-V @ Ashland-Greenwood @ Jack Anderson Fields 5pm Vball C Team @ Freeman 6pm Vball-JV @ Freeman North Gym 7pm Vball-V @ Freeman, North Gym	25 7pm Ftbl-V @ Nebraska City HS	26 9:30am Cross Country-JV/V @ Norris High School 9am Softball-V @ Syracuse Sports Complex
27	28	29 4:30pm Sftball-JV @ Zion 6pm Sftball-V @ Zion 5:30pm Vball-JV @ Sterling HS 6:30pm Vball V @ Sterling HS	30	31 4:30pm Sftball-V @ Zion		



DANIEL FREEMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL LEARNERS

www.freemanpublicschools.org

August 2023

No School Days

September 4, 25
October 20, 23, 24
November 22-24
December 20-31
January 1-3, 15
February 21
March 7, 8, 29
April 1, 2

Early Dismissal

August 10
January 26
May 14

415 8th Street
PO Box 259
Adams, NE 68301

Phone:
402.988-2525
Fax:
402.988-3475

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT, MR. ANDREW HAVELKA

Freeman Families:

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are excited to begin the new school year on Thursday, August 10th. In this Newsletter, you will find information about several things that will help you prepare for the beginning of the school year.

As we have seen in previous years, there will be an increase in student enrollment in 2023-24. We are anticipating over 490 students in grades PK-12, which will be the most students Freeman Public Schools has seen in its 26 years as a district. We are excited to see continued growth and will continue to maintain our facilities to prepare for this increase.

It was a busy summer at Freeman. Our maintenance and custodial staff were busy with summer projects and getting the building ready for everyone's return. A few summer upgrades include the culmination of Freeman's multi-year roof replacement project, new carpet in the elementary office and workroom, tuck pointing/masonry work on the West entrance brick, and LED lights in the library and North gym.

This Spring and Summer were also filled with some exciting new developments regarding the future of Freeman! This past school year, a facility study was conducted by the architectural firm Clark & Enersen to assess our current facilities and infrastructure and establish priorities based on district needs and strategic long-range planning goals. A concept plan was developed and shared with the school board this summer. District staff and community engagement sessions will be scheduled this fall to share the plan and discuss the next steps. In addition, the district purchased two properties to help address the need for increased green space and expanded parking.

The beginning of any school year brings excitement, hope, and maybe a little bit of anxiety. This year is no different. The dedication of Freeman Public Schools lies in the success of our students, families, and staff. We are fortunate to have a dedicated faculty and support staff helping our students learn and grow. We welcome our new teachers and staff members and are excited for the remainder of our team to return for another successful year. I also want to take this opportunity to welcome those students and families that are new to Freeman. We are excited to have you be a part of our school community!

The 2023-2024 school year is fast approaching. I hope you can take advantage of the remaining days of summer. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Mr. Wallinger, 7-12 principal, Mrs. Sieh, PK-6 principal, or me, and we will do our best to help. If you have any address or contact changes, please let the office know. Let's have a great year! Go Falcons!

Andrew Havelka, Freeman Superintendent

402-988-2525 x103 | Andrew.havelka@freemanschools.net | Twitter: @FreemanPS_Supt

From the 7-12 Principal, Mr. Cody Wallinger

Hello Falcon Family.

I wanted to use this platform to formally introduce myself.

My name is Cody Wallinger and I will be your new 7-12

principal. As cliché as it is, I could not be more excited for

this opportunity. The personal and professional commitment to excellence, the towns of Adams and Filley and ultimately the school of Freeman have established and live out is inspiring. For my family to be able to become a small part of the Freeman family, is very special to us. On that note, I would

like to introduce my wife Lily, our five-year-old son Rocco, and our 1-year-old son Archer.



Growing up in Odell, NE I can attest to the invaluable benefits ‘Small Town, USA’ offers. As your principal I want you to know from the get-go that I believe in and am committed to the mission of our Freeman Public Schools. Namely, the foundational principle that it is our responsibility to adequately prepare our youth for life outside these Falcon halls. This reality roots itself in the understanding and belief that what we do within these educational settings has its greatest impact outside of them—in a manner we may never truly realize.

As your new principal, you have my promise that every one of your children will be loved and valued like they deserve. Our school is our community, and our community is our school. One without the other is unimaginable. Thus, I embrace the idea of investing my time, talents, and treasures into helping both continue to flourish. In closing, I look forward to introducing myself and getting to know all of you. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any/every question, comment, and/or concern you may have. Go Falcons!

Communication:

If you are wondering what is happening at Freeman, here are a few ways to get connected:

- Website: www.freemanpublicschools.org
- rSchool Activities Calendar: <https://www.eastcentralnebraskaconf.org/public/genie/455/school/558/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FreemanPublicSchools/>
- Twitter: @Freeman_Falcons and @FreemanPS_Supt
- Striv (live feed for athletics): <https://striv.tv/channel/freeman/>

Freeman Public Schools has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate, and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to students with disabilities. If you suspect that your child is struggling in school or may have a disability, Freeman Public Schools can assist you.

For additional information about the rights of parents of eligible children or for answers to any questions you might have about identification, evaluation, and placement into Section 504 and special education programs, please contact Freeman’s superintendent, Dr. Andrew Havelka at 402-988-2525

ELEMENTARY NOTES FROM MRS. SIEH

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year where "MINDS GROW HERE!" The summer days went by quickly and as hard as it is to believe that school will be back in session soon, we are ready for the halls to be filled with laughter, stories, and all things school!

This school year we are excited to welcome some new staff:

- Sadie Conn- 1st Grade Teacher
- Cody Wallinger - Secondary Principal

Please be sure to join us on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, for our Activities Fair and Elementary Open House. The Junior Class will be serving a grilled burger and hotdog meal beginning at 5:15pm. For the second year, we are hosting an Activities Fair from 5:30-6:30pm in the South Gym. During this time, you can see all of the different activities and events that Freeman has to offer. Some community groups will be there as well. New this year is a photo booth and some games. Be sure to get your Passport stamped and turn in for prizes!

All classrooms will be open to students and families starting at 6:30pm until 7:30pm. This is a time where you can meet your teachers, drop off supplies, and check out your new classroom! Both offices will be open as well if you need to drop off important papers or money for the lunch account.

The first day of school is Thursday, August 10th. There will be a **1PM DISMISSAL** so be sure to make arrangements ahead of time. Friday, August 11th will be a normal school day. In case you need a reminder, the normal school hours are 8:10 AM-3:30 PM. Pre-School will begin on Monday, August 14th. Make sure you are aware of which section your child is in and verify those times with Mrs. Sedlacek.

Thank you for choosing Freeman Public Schools this year! We are looking forward to an outstanding year of learning and growing with your child. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to serve you better!

Kindest Regards,
Mrs. Erin Sieh
Elementary Principal

SCHOOL MESSENGER NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Freeman will again be using School Messenger to notify you of important events and un-planned school closings. The system automatically uses the number/email from PowerSchool. Remember to notify the office if you need to make any changes to the numbers/emails you provided. School Messenger will also call at 9:00 am if a student is marked absent without a call from the parent.

Important Fall Dates from the Athletic Office

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Athletic Department
Mr. Veerhusen (greg.veerhusen@freemanschools.net) or Mrs. Kroeker
(kristin.kroeker@freemanschools.net)

Monday, August 7: Signed physical form submitted to the HS office

Monday, August 7: 1st day of Fall Sports Practices (9th-12th Grade)

Monday, August 14: Completed NSAA paperwork, Parent/Student activity handbook signed and Activity Fee paperwork/payment

Friday, October 6: Homecoming

Saturday, October 7: Homecoming Dance

Fall Sports Parent's Night

Thursday, August 24: Volleyball

Tuesday, August 29: Softball

Friday, September 1: Football & Cross Country

ADMISSION PRICES/SEASON ACTIVITY PASSES

Admission for Freeman varsity contests will be \$6.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and senior citizens (age 65+). Students in grades 7-12 are admitted to Freeman events free after paying their activity fee. Admission for Freeman non-varsity contests (JH, JV, 9/10, etc.) will be \$5.00 for adults.

Season passes are good for all home athletic events except holiday, conference and NSAA sponsored tournaments. Season passes offer significant discounts to regular admission prices.

Season Pass Pricing:

Adult- 18-64	\$75	Student	\$55 (non-participants)
Senior 65 +	\$55	Family	\$150

*** Family is considered immediate family members living at home.**

***College students are considered adults**

FACILITY USAGE

Shortly after school begins, the office starts getting requests for use of the gym for practices from parents who are coaches for their children's Y-sponsored teams. When wanting to reserve any space within the school, you need to start the reservation process on the freeman home page. <https://freemanpublicschools.org>. The FACILITIES REQUEST FORM tab is below the Falcon Flyer tab. Click there to start the process. If you have issues, please contact Greg Veerhusen at 402-988-2525. All requests for any outside facility usage will go through this system.

STUDENT FEES

All 7-12 students will be required to pay a technology fee of \$15. 7-12 students participating in any activity will be required to pay a \$65. activity fee. Activities include band, quiz bowl, speech, FFA, FBLA, One Act, Cheer, and all athletics.

The activity fee will be used to offset the expense of transportation, officials and entry fees. The technology fee will allow the student to keep their Chromebook when they graduate.

The activity fee for ALL 7-12 students wishing to take part in activities will be \$65 activity fee + \$15 technology fee with a total of **\$80 per student**. This is a YEARLY fee, not per activity. **Families who qualify for free or reduced lunch may qualify to have these fees waived.** Please speak with Vici in the HS office to get the appropriate paperwork.

Students who pay their yearly activity fee will also be granted access to all regular season activities at Freeman. Tournaments, Conference events, and State events will NOT honor these passes.

SECONDARY STUDENTS

Students may enter the building at 7:45 am. Students may enter the building earlier if they have a scheduled appointment with a teacher or coach.

The regular school day runs from 8:05-3:30 daily. No students are to be in the building before 7:45 am or after 3:45pm unless under direct supervision of an instructor or sponsor.

Students who must leave school for any reason during the school day must check out at the office before leaving. Students leaving school must be cleared in advance by a note or phone call from the student's parent or legal guardian. Upon returning to school that same day, students are to sign in at the office. Students who leave without permission and without signing out in the proper manner will be considered truant.

CANVAS INFORMATION

The best way to see what your upper elementary, junior high and high school students are doing in class is by creating an Observer account in Canvas, which is our district's learning management system. If you are interested in learning more about the creation of an observer account or what such an account can do for you, please take a moment to view the video, read through the Canvas guides or both. As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to school.

Canvas Observer Guide <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10917-canvas-observer-guide-table-of-contents>

Canvas Observer Screencast <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cqQh2BtxUy>

NEW STUDENTS

Registration for new students is now underway. Please call 402-988-2525 to set up an appointment or stop by the high school office anytime during the day to register any student entering the 7 - 12 grades. If you wish, a tour of the building can also be provided at your convenience. We recommend that new students register with the school as early as possible so that all paperwork can be completed prior to the start of school. As a part of the registration process, you will need to provide the school with a birth certificate, vaccination records, and contact information from your previous school. Students moving from another state are required to have a physical also (forms can be picked up at the school). All 7th grade students are required to have a physical (even if not moving from another state) and any 7-12 grade student who wishes to participate in activities will be required to have the necessary paperwork submitted before they will be allowed to practice.

IMPORTANT LINKS TO REVIEW

Please click the following links to review the 23/24 Freeman Student & Activity Handbooks; as well as the school year calendar. More information to come via email regarding the handbooks.

[Student Handbook](#),
[Activity Handbook](#),
[Calendar](#)

The new school year requires a new meal application to qualify for Free or Reduced Meals. Only one meal application is needed for each household. Applications are available online at www.freemanpublicschools.org

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400
Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Freeman Public Schools will again be participating in the Backpack program starting this fall. This program is made possible through partnerships with the Food Bank of Lincoln and Freeman Public Schools. Fridays during the school year starting at a later date, a backpack filled with items such as cereal, canned fruits or vegetables, spaghetti, peanut butter and jelly, or mac n' cheese will be sent home for your family. Backpacks will be discreetly delivered to students on Fridays and it is their responsibility to bring the backpack back to school on the following Monday. In addition to nonperishable foods, vouchers to area grocery stores will be sent home each week. These can be redeemed at area stores, a list of which will be provided to you in the fall.

If you would like to participate in the program, there are several ways to sign up.

- **Sign and return the bottom portion of this form to the school office**
- **Call or email Mr. Havelka 402-988-2525 x103 Andrew.havelka@freemanschools.net**

Food Bank of Lincoln Backpack Program:

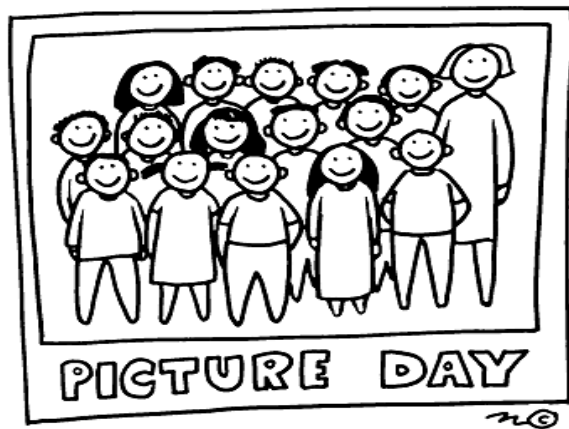
- Backpacks are loaded by volunteers for Friday pick-up by students
- Backpacks are discreetly delivered to students on Fridays and are expected to be returned on Mondays
- Vouchers included vary each week for eggs, bread, milk, produce and meat
- There is no cost or charge to be part of this program

Sincerely,
Andrew Havelka

Family Name: _____

_____ Yes, our Family would like to participate in the Freeman/Food Bank Backpack Program. My responsibility is to be sure the backpack is returned to school each Monday.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____



SCHOOL PICTURES

Student and staff pictures will be taken by Pictures with Class on Wednesday, August 23rd starting at 7:45 am. All students will have their picture taken for the yearbook and student ID/lunch cards. More information to follow. If you would like to volunteer to help with picture day, please contact Angie in the elementary office.

*****BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NEW FORMS TO UPDATE FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR ON POWERSCHOOL. INFORMATION TO COME SOON.**



BREAKFAST

For all K-12 students, breakfast will be served from 7:45 to 8:05 am. The cost of student breakfast will be \$2.10 for all students K-12th grade. Adult prices are \$2.75.

LUNCH PROGRAM INFORMATION

Lunch prices for 2023-2024 school year are as follows: K-6 Lunch: \$3.10, 7-12 Lunch: \$3.40. One milk is included with the hot lunch. Adult prices are \$4.60. Ala carte items are an additional charge. Entrees are \$2.00 each and sides are \$1.00 each. Your student must have money in their lunch account to purchase these items. Milk purchased separately (extra milk and milk only) will be \$0.45 each.

Payments may be made by check, cash or online payments through E-funds

MENUS

Cereal, juice & fruit are offered with breakfast. All meals come with one carton of milk.

Extra milk may be purchased for \$0.45 each. Menu subject to change

Purchase of an entrée only or an additional entrée will cost \$2.00 for students and staff.

	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
<u>Aug. 10-11</u>		
Thursday:	no breakfast	Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Chips, Vegetables, Fruit Cup
Friday:	Waffles	Pizza, Veggies, Corn, Applesauce
<u>Aug. 14-18</u>		
Monday:	French Toast	Hamburger, Bun, Baked Beans, Vegetables, Peaches
Tuesday:	Waffles	Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Breadsticks, Vegetables, Pineapples
Wednesday:	Donuts	Chicken Patty, Mashed Potato, Gravy, Bread & Butter or PB, Vegetables, Pears
Thursday:	Sausage & Biscuit	Hot Dog, Bun, Green Beans, Vegetables, Oranges
Friday:	Omelet	Fiestada, Veggies, Corn, Applesauce
<u>Aug. 21-25</u>		
Monday:	French Toast	Br. Pork Patty, Bun, Potato Triangle, Veggies, Peaches
Tuesday:	Muffin	Mandarin Chicken, Rice, Veggies, Pears, Roll & Butter
Wednesday:	Pancakes	Corn Dog, Cottage Cheese, Baked Beans, Vegetables, Pineapple
Thursday:	Donut	Sloppy Joe, Bun, Broccoli, Vegetables, Applesauce
Friday:	Omelet	Pizza, Corn, Veggies, Oranges
<u>Aug. 28-31</u>		
Monday:	French Toast	Walking Taco, Chips, Meat, Salsa. Veggies, Pears
Tuesday:	Waffles	Ribette & Bun, Potato Triangle, Vegetables, Peaches
Wednesday:	Donuts	Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potato, Gravy, Bread & Butter or PB, Vegetables, Pineapple
Thursday:	Muffin	Falcon Hero Sub, Chips, Baked Beans, Vegetables, Applesauce

TOTAL MONTHLY COST

Elementary Lunch	15	\$3.10	\$46.50
JH/HS Lunch	15	\$3.40	\$51.00
Adult Lunch Price:		\$4.60	

Non-Discrimination Statement: The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.) If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

