

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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

[FREE AND REDUCED APPLICATIONS LINK](#)

No School Days in December

20: Professional Development-no students.

20-31: Winter Break

Junior's ACT Test Date

March 26th, 2024



December, 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:30am-2pm Picture Day-Activities/class South Gym 7:30pm-8:30pm TeamMates Training @ Media Center	2 9am Bball-B/JH @ JCC in Cook 2pm Bball-G/JV @ Sutton HS 2pm Bball-B/JV @ Sutton HS 3:30pm Bball-G/V @ Sutton HS 5pm Bball-B/V @ Sutton HS 9am Wrestling-B/V @ Connestoqa HS 10am Wrestling - Girls @ Freeman
3	4 6pm Bball-G/JV @ Johnson-Brock HS 7pm Bball-B/JV @ Johnson-Brock HS 3:30pm-5:00pm EL Cheer Clinic Practice @ S HS Commons 6:30pm-8pm JH Boys Basketball @ Freeman North Gym	5 7:45am-8:05am Bank In School @ Elementary Commons 3:30pm-5:00pm EL Cheer Clinic Practice @ S HS Commons Testing: MAPS @ Freeman	6 1pm Bball-B/JH @ Freeman, North Gym Testing: MAPS @ Freeman	7 3:30pm-5:00pm EL Cheer Clinic Practice @ S HS Commons One Act State @ Norfolk Johnny Carson Theater	8 4:30pm Bball-G/JV @ Fillmore Central HS 4:30pm Bball- B/JV @ Fillmore Central HS 6pm Bball-G/V @ Fillmore Central HS 7:30pm Bball-B/V @ Fillmore Central HS	9 3pm Bball-B/JV @ Freeman S Gym 3pm Bball-G/JV @ Freeman N Gym 4:30pm Bball-G/V Falls City @ Freeman N Gym 6pm Bball-B/V @ Freeman N Gym 10am Wrestling-B/V @ North Bend Central HS 9am Wrestling - Girls @ Freeman
10 4pm Bball-B/JH @ Johnson-Brock HS 6pm Bball-G/JV @ Freeman N Gym 7pm Bball-B/JV @ Freeman North Gym 7pm Board of Education Meeting @ Freeman Media Center	11 4pm Bball-G/JV HTRS 5pm Bball-B/JV 6pm Bball-G/V 7:45pm Bball-B/V 6pm Wrestling-B/V @ Palmyra Main Gym 6pm Wrestling - Girls @ Freeman	12 1pm Bball-B/JH @ Sterling HS 7:30am8:10am TeamMates Breakfast @ N HS Commons	13 7pm MUSIC 7-12 Concert @ FHS - South Gym 4pm Wrestling - Girls @ Freeman	14 4:30pm Bball-G/JV @ Freeman N Gym 4:30pm Bball-B/JV @ Freeman S Gym 6pm Bball-G/V @ Freeman N Gym 7:30pm Bball-B/V @ Freeman N Gym	15 9am Bball-B/JV @ Louisville HS 9:30pm Wrestling- B/V @ JCC Middle 9am Wrestling - Girls @ Freeman	16
17	18 2:30pm Wrestling- B/V @ Sutton High School	19 No School - Professional Development @ Freeman No Students	20 4:30pm Bball Freeman G/JV N Gym 4:30pm B/JV S Gym 6pm G/V N Gym 7:30pm B/V N Gym No School	21 No School	22	23
24 No School	25 No School	26 No School	27 No School	28 5pm Bball-B/V @ Freeman N Gym No School 10am Wrestling - Girls @ Freeman	29 2pm Bball-G/V @ Freeman HS S Gym 3pm Bball-B/V vs. @ Freeman N Gym	30
31						



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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT, MR. ANDREW HAVELKA

Freeman Families:

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving! We all have so much to be thankful for! It will be a fast and furious 3½ weeks until Christmas break. Students will be busy completing mid-year assessments and preparing for the end of the semester in the next month. Please reach out if you have any questions.

On November 22nd, the Nebraska Department of Education publicly released its 2022-23 Education Profile and accountability classifications for every school district. This classification is based on several indicators, including academic proficiency, achievement growth, graduation rate, and absentee rates. **Freeman Public Schools was classified as a “GREAT” school district for the 2022-23 school year.** Our district’s snapshot can be found at <https://nep.education.ne.gov/snapshot.html#34-0034-000>

A more specific breakdown of this information will be included in Freeman’s Annual Report, which will be released at the December Board of Education meeting. Freeman is so fortunate to have an amazing teaching faculty, support staff, and community support. We are proud of the classification and will continue to provide quality education for our students!

2024-2025 District Calendar

Building the 2024-25 district calendar is underway. Next year’s calendar will be unique in that it is a “rollback” year for the NSAA. This may cause changes to start dates and breaks throughout the school year. I am looking for a few parents, teachers, and staff members interested in assisting with the process. If you are interested in providing input, please get in touch with me at <mailto:andrew.havelka@freemanschools.net>

Inclement Weather

Freeman has built three days into the 2023-2024 calendar for severe weather cancellations. If school is closed or begins at 10:00 AM, information will be sent through the school messenger system and website. Notice will also be sent to the following media outlets:

- ☐ KOLN/KGIN 10/11
- ☐ KWBE-AM 1450
- ☐ KLKN TV Channel 8

As always, don’t hesitate to contact the school with any questions. Go Falcons!

Dr. Havelka

Dr. Andrew Havelka

Superintendent of Freeman Public Schools 402-988-2525 x103 | Andrew.havelka@freemanschools.net |

Twitter: @FreemanPS_S415 8th Street PO Box 259 Adams, NE 68301



From the 7-12 Principal, Mr. Cody Wallinger

Growing up in a household with both parents as educators, as well as finding myself in the educational field, I've been blessed with the realization that the end of every calendar year and the beginning of each corresponding one has always been accompanied by a "break". Whether by coincidence or design, the fact of the matter remains that I am grateful for this reality.

While there will no doubt be family gatherings to attend and winter sports sprinkling their presence in our upcoming "Christmas Break", there will also be a large amount of time presented to us, to simply slow down. Because this letter is distributed to many more individuals than just Freeman Falcon students and employees, I'm going to encourage all those reading this column to take this idea, to heart.

"Once a year, go somewhere you have never been before."

As you process this proposal, take comfort that the root of it's meaning is void of any physical destination. All that is being suggested is that you, the reader, position yourself in an experience vastly different than anything else you've been privy to. I suppose the best news of all is that these unique opportunities are littered all around us, this time of the year.

As good seasonal vibes and half-hearted promises of new lifestyle changes co-exist in many heads, over these upcoming winter weeks, I hang my hat on the principle that the worthiest of accomplishments will come about by engaging those we love the most. Granted everyone has their own trip to trek, I've found that my most worthwhile destinations always end up on the other side of vulnerability. That confidence coupled with some untimely and heartbreaking deaths over the last couple years has left me with much clearer eyes. This Christmas break, I'm making a real conscious effort to position myself in scenarios and situations that I've only previously contemplated. This Christmas break I'm making sure that I use my time away from a traditional educational setting to pass along the one gift I know deserves to be re gifted – Love.

It's here I'm reminded of one the most memorable cinematic quotes, of all time. As a sullen Clarence Odbody leans over a mailbox and attempts to connect with a frightened and confused George Bailey, still not fully sure if his life has made a positive impact, we are given this gem; *"Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around, he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?"*

There's undeniable truth, in that fictional guardian angel's warning. Perhaps, though, there is another reality that could provide just as morbid a mindset. What if that same awful hole could present itself within one's presence? What if one's inability to pass on cheerfulness, enjoyment, peace, and even love acted as a barrier for others to do Likewise; What if someone out there was hindered by your inability to make yourself susceptible? If this suggestion gives you pause, even in the slightest, take relief that this holiday season will present a plethora of opportunities for our hearts to make that Grinch-like leap. The better news? This undertaking isn't limited to a season. After all, as that mysterious conductor from "The Polar Express" would say, with a wink in his eye, *"The thing about trains...it doesn't mater where they're going. What matters is deciding to get on."*

On that note, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from the Wallingers!
All Aboard!



Communication:

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

- [Freeman Website](#)
- [rSchool Activities Calendar](#)
- [Falcons In Action](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- X (Formerly known as Twitter): @Freeman_Falcons and @FreemanPS_Supt

Phone: 402-988-2525

Fax: 402-988-3475

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

Freeman Strengths in November

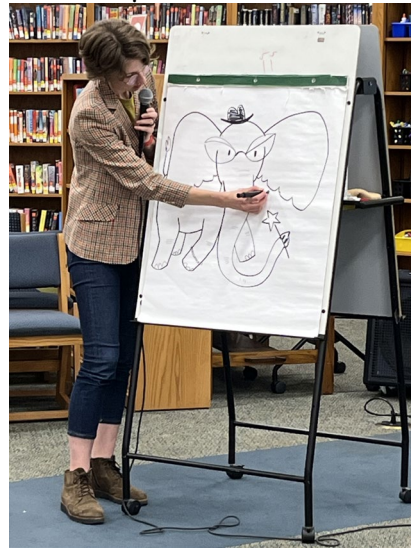
Do you know your top five strengths? Our high school students have taken the CliftonStrengths assessment, and are learning about their strengths as well as how to use their strengths every day. Our younger students learn about their top three out of ten StrengthsExplorer strengths. From speed dating, where you have one minute to tell about one of your strengths as you go person to person, to learning how to use your strengths on a resume to creating a quilt block depicting your strengths, the afternoon was filled with learning and fun. The juniors and seniors had guest speaker and Freeman Alum, Alex Podtburg speak to them about their CliftonStrengths. Podtburg, once a Freeman Strengths Ambassador, is now a sophomore at Kansas State and a CliftonStrengths peer coach. Thank you, Alex, for sharing your journey and encouraging our Freeman students.



Due to the Hevelone Foundation's generosity, we were able to host two illustrators this fall here at Freeman.

Illustrator Chloe Burgett

"The only way to get better at drawing is to draw." That was the advice given to Freeman Elementary students when illustrator Chloe Burgett visited Freeman Schools. Burgett spent the afternoon at Freeman, presenting four different sessions to the elementary. She talked about how she got started in drawing and the process of illustrating books. Burgett demonstrated how she draws using the iPad. She guided kindergarten students in drawing their own elephants. They intently followed along and were so proud of their drawings.



Illustrator Sydney Saathoff

Freeman Schools was privileged to host a second illustrator for the fall, Sydney Saathoff. Saathoff is from southeast Nebraska and is a Southern High School graduate. She is a graphic designer, illustrator, and is working on becoming an author. If you have driven around Beatrice, you may have seen the mural she created near 5th and Ella streets, depicting the first homestead in America. Saathoff presented sessions with the preschoolers, elementary, and secondary students. She shared her background and read the book she illustrated to the students. She also drew for the students, challenging them to draw along with her. Students and teachers alike tried their hand at drawing, and with Saathoff's guidance, there were some excellent illustrations!

We are thankful for the Hevelone Foundation.

Grades	Test	Date	Test	Date
Kindergarten	Math	12/7/23	Reading	12/8/23
Grade 1	Math	12/5/23	Reading	12/4/23
Grade 2	Math	12/5/23	Reading	12/4/23
Grade 3	Math	12/12/23	Reading	12/11/23
Grade 4	Math	12/12/23	Reading	12/11/23
Grade 5	Math	12/14/23	Reading	12/13/23
Grade 6	Math	12/14/23	Reading	12/13/23
7	Reading	12/5/23	Math	12/6/23
8	Reading	12/5/23	Math	12/6/23
9	Reading	12/5/23	Math	12/6/23
10	Reading	12/5/23	Math	12/6/23
11	Reading	12/5/23	Math	12/6/23
Seniors	senior planning	12/5/23	senior planning	12/6/23
Kindergarten	12/4/23	Reading Fluency		
Grade 1	12/6/23	Reading Fluency		
Grade 2	12/7/23	Reading Fluency		
Grade 3	12/13/23	Reading Fluency		
Grade 4	12/13/23	Reading Fluency		
Grade 5	12/12/23	Reading Fluency		
Grade 6	12/12/23	Reading Fluency		
Grade 11	ACT--required of all juniors	March 26	Adams Community Building	
Grade 11	ACT makeup	April 9	Adams Community Building	
Grade 11	ACT makeup	April 23	Adams Community Building	
Kindergarten	Math	4/30/24	Reading	5/1/24
Grade 1	Math	4/16/24	Reading	4/8/24
Grade 2	Math	4/17/24	Reading	4/9/24
REQUIRED	NSCAS Math		NSCAS Reading	
Grade 3	4/22/24		4/16/2024	
Grade 4	4/22/24		4/15/2024	
Grade 5	4/24/24		4/17/2024	
Grade 6	4/24/24		4/18/2024	
	NSCAS tests			
Grade 7	reading	April 8		
Grade 8	reading	April 8		
Grade 7	math	April 16		
Grade 8	math	April 18		
Grade 8	Science	TBD		

Library with Mrs. Weyer

6th graders have been busy creating and learning how to use Canva.

Canva is a free-to-use online graphic design tool that helps create social media posts, presentations, posters, videos, logos and more. The 6th graders have created several projects since the beginning of the school year. Recently they have been designing their own wrapping paper. Not only have they been designing it, they have also been able to print the wrapping paper on Freeman's large printer. The wrapping paper was purchased through the STEM/Makerspace fund. This fund has been growing with the help of staff and students who have purchased Loaded Teas and other projects.

Thank you everyone for the support and for helping provide our students with many tools in the Stem/Makerspace to create projects. Please consider purchasing wrapping paper to help fundraise for the author visit (Aaron Reynolds) in April and to continue to support our STEM/Makerspace.

Wrapping Paper order Form <https://forms.gle/zLcL1KXq8g3PiABg7>



Please encourage your child to check for their belongings in the lost and found.

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STUDENT NAME _____ GRADE _____

NUMBER OF YEARBOOKS AT \$50 EACH _____

NAME STAMP FOR YEARBOOK (OPTIONAL) \$5 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED: _____

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jkastanek@freemanschools.net

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Or

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www.yearbookforever.com

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

December 1

Friday:	omelet	Pizza, Corn, Vegetables, Oranges
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December 4-8

Monday:	French Toast	Chicken Fajita, Soft Shell, Cheese, Vegetables, Pineapple
Tuesday:	Muffin	Hamburger, Bun, Baked Beans, Vegetables, Peaches
Wednesday:	Donut	Chicken Patty, Mashed Potato, Gravy, Bread & Butter or PB, Pears
Thursday:	Waffles	Chili or Veg Beef Soup, PBJ, Vegetables, Applesauce
Friday:	Scrambled Eggs	Fiestada, Vegetables, Oranges

December 11-15

Monday:	French Toast	Walking Taco, Meat, Cheese, Chips, Vegetables, Pears
Tuesday:	Donut	Falcon Hero Sub, Chips, Vegetables, Peaches
Wednesday:	Waffles	Mandarin Chicken, Rice, Roll & Butter, Broccoli, Vegetables, Pineapples
Thursday:	Muffin	Chili Dog, Bun, Vegetables, Oranges
Friday:	Omelet	Pizza. Corn, Vegetables, Applesauce

December 18-22

Monday:	French Toast	Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Breadstick, Vegetables, Pineapple
Tuesday:	Waffles	Chicken Patty, Bun, Chips, Vegetables, Fruit Cup
Wednesday:	NO SCHOOL	
Thursday:	NO SCHOOL	
Friday:	NO SCHOOL	
		MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!
		HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Breakfast: K-12 served 7:45-8:05. Cost for K-12 is \$2.10 Adult price is \$2.75

TOTAL MONTHLY COST

Elementary Lunch	13	\$3.10	\$40.30
JH/HS Lunch	13	\$3.40	\$44.20
Adult Lunch Price:		\$4.60	

