

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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

[FREE AND REDUCED APPLICATIONS LINK](#)

FREE & REDUCED MEAL APPLICATIONS

A NEW MEAL APPLICATION IS NEEDED TO QUALIFY FOR FREE OR REDUCED MEALS. ONLY ONE MEAL APPLICATION IS NEEDED PER HOUSEHOLD. FOLLOW THE LINK ABOVE, CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR APPLICATIONS CAN ALSO BE FOUND ONLINE AT www.freemanpublicschools.org

No School Days, in October

20th, 23rd, 24th

SCHOOL PICTURE RETAKES

WILL BE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

FALL PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday and Wednesday, October 16 & 18. Information on elementary teacher conference sign up thru PowerSchool will be sent.

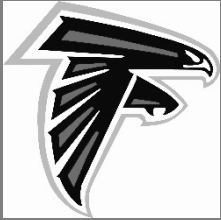
Homecoming Parade

Friday, October 6th starting at 5:30; Main Street, Adams



October, 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	4:30pm Ftbll-JH @ Freeman 5pm Ftbll-JV @ Elmwood Murdock TBD Sftball-V @ TBD	7:45am- 8:05am Bank in School @ Elem Commons 4pm XC-JV/V @ Cass Co Fairgrounds 4pm Vball-G/JH @ JCC Middle (Cook) 6pm Vball-JV @ Freeman 7pm Vball-V @ Freeman N Gym	6:30pm Comm CIP @ N HS Commons 7:15pm-8:15pm Facility Study Information Meeting @ Media Center	4pm XC JV/V @ Camp Kateri - McCool Junction 4pm Vball-@ Freeman 6pm Vball-JV @ Tri County HS 7pm Vball-V Tri @ Tri County HS	7pm Ftbll-@ Freeman 5:30pm HOCO Parade Sftball-V @ TBD	8pm-10:30pm HOCO Dance 8am-12pm HOCO Setup Harvest of Harmony Parade @ G.Island Sftball-V @ TBD 8am Vball-JH @ Lewiston HS
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7pm Board of Ed Meeting @ Media Ctr 4:30pm Ftbll-JH @ Weeping Water 6pm Ftbll-JV @ Weeping Water TBD Vball-V TBD	Vball-V @ TBD 4pm Vball-JH @ Freeman	7:45am Pic Retake Day @ - South Gym TBD Sftball-V TBD	TBD XC-JV/V FFA District EDGE Conf @ Norris 7pm Ftbll-V @ Freeman 7:30am SKIP Flu Clinic @ Music Rm TBD Sftball-V TBD TBD Vball-V TBD	TBD Softball-V		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
7pm-8pm Facility Study Inform Meeting @ Media Cnter 8am-3pm NHSPA Conf @ UNL 4pm-8pm Parent Teacher Conf 6:30pm Title I Parent Meeting @ Media Center	7:45am- 8:05am Bank In School @ - Elem Commons 5:30pm Vball-JV @ Elmwood-Murdock HS 6:30pm Vball-V @ Elmwood-Murdock HS	8am-3:15pm ART Field Trip @ Peru St College 4pm-8pm Parent-Teacher Confe Testing: PSAT @ Freeman	TBD Ftbll-V	12pm XC JV/V @ Kearney Cntry Club No School		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
No School TBD Volleyball-V	No School - Professional Development TBD Vball-V	2pm-3:30pm Apply2College Day @ Freeman	1pm-6:30pm FFA/NHS Blood Drive @ American Lutheran Church, Adams	TBD Ftbll-V	TBD Vball-V	
29	30	31				
	7:45am- 8:05am Bank In School @ Elem Commons FFA National Convention @ Indianapolis, IN					



DANIEL FREEMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL LEARNERS

www.freemanpublicschools.org

October 2023

No School Days

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

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:

Fall is here! The last few weeks have been fast and furious at Freeman Public Schools, and that is sure to continue! We have had activities, field trips, sporting events, assemblies, MAP testing, and many other things that have kept our students and staff busy. If you haven't already, check out the Falcons In Action (<https://tinyurl.com/mw7u7an7>) and get out and support the kids! Take an opportunity this month to thank a Freeman teacher! Our classroom teachers do an excellent job of helping our kids learn and grow. Please stop by or send a note and tell them how appreciative you are of their hard work and dedication to the district.

Facility Planning

As part of a strategic planning facilities goal, the Freeman School Board approved Clark & Enersen to conduct a facility study in August 2022. The study was completed in June, and we designed a website that provides information regarding our needs and the results of the recently completed study. Information can be found here: <https://shorturl.at/npMQ3>

Freeman will also host three informational meetings to discuss the results of the study and the plans that were developed for Freeman. We would love for parents and district patrons to attend! All three meetings will be held in the Library.

Wednesday, October 4th, 7:15 PM

Monday, October 16th, 7:00 PM

Tuesday, November 7th, 7:00 PM

2023-24 Budget:

September is always a busy month when it comes to budget planning. On September 11th, the Freeman School Board approved the 2023-24 budget and levy. Here are some key takeaways from the approved budget:

- ☐ The district's property tax valuation increased by 8.6%.
- ☐ The board approved a total levy, including the General fund, Building fund, and bonds, of \$0.852. This is an 8.7-cent decrease from 2022-23. The district's total tax request decreased by \$77,274 from 2022-23.
- ☐ There was a \$767,604 reduction in tax request in the General Fund. This is a result of per-student foundation aid, net-option funding, and increased special education reimbursement.
- ☐ There was a \$693,586 increase in tax request in the Building Fund. The completion of roof projects and the purchase of land depleted the existing balance. These funds will help pay back the loan used to pay for a portion of the land purchased, campus improvement areas addressed, and plans for continued facility/infrastructure needs and improvements.

I hope everyone has a great month. Please get in touch with the principals or me if you have questions or concerns.

Dr. Havelka

Andrew Havelka, Freeman Superintendent

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



From the 7-12 Principal, Mr. Cody Wallinger

Can you believe we are already into October?! Where in the world did August and September go? While the saying “Long days, short years.” is applicable to life in general, it seems entirely apropos to sprinkle it in here, as well.

One of the things I wanted to incorporate, this year with our secondary students, was student assemblies. At both of these talks, so far, I’ve made it a point to touch on the number of remaining school days, until random events. So for example, and under the presumption you are reading this Monday, October 2nd, I may share the following information:

School Days Until:

- ☐ Homecoming (5)
- ☐ State Softball (8)
- ☐ Parent/Teacher Conference (12)
- ☐ 1st Round of Football Playoffs and Volleyball Sub Districts (14)
- ☐ FFA National Convention (19)
- ☐ 1st Basketball Games (34)
- ☐ Thanksgiving Break (34)
- ☐ 1st Wrestling Match (44)
- ☐ Christmas Break (51)
- ☐ 1st Track Meet (104)
- ☐ Graduation (137)
- ☐ Last Day of School (139)

Of course, these numbers are often times met with raised eyebrows, as if to imply there’s ample time to prepare. The reality however, and something that we as adults will share, is that each event will be here before you know it.

Spinning off the notion of time, I’m always left thinking about Augustine of Hippo’s initial attempt at wrapping his mind around what it truly means, “What then is time? Provided that no one asks me, I know. If I want to explain it to an inquirer, I do not know”

Given the mysterious nature of this man-made construct coupled with the universal truth that it’s easily our most precious commodity, it seems beyond appropriate that we use even the beginning months of a school year to hit home the message that it cannot be wasted. That literally every day is a gift as well as an opportunity.

As I pen October’s newsletter submission, I have no doubt that I will draw upon this message in roughly 222 days, when I’m prepping to shake our seniors’ hands, as I hand them their diplomas. Wondering to myself, how in the world it went so fast. If you have never seen the movie “Friday Night Lights” well...you’re missing out. Also, the rest of this message may not have much impact. Nonetheless, and for some strange reason, it’s final scene is the visualization that always seems to be on repeat in my mind, at the culmination of literally anything. As the Permian Panthers wrap up their season, which *spoiler* ended in heartbreak, the reality of life’s continuation begins to set in. In-between snippets of different main characters going their own way, we are shown Coach Gary Gaines already removing seniors’ names from his magnetized football field, in his office. One-by-one coach grabs the names of characters we’ve come to know and love. After staring at each of their last names, for a brief moment, he is shown dropping them and replacing them with the next pride of Panthers. The scene then shifts to a few key seniors carrying their football gear out to their cars and taking one final look at Ratliff Stadium, and all the memories she holds.

Brian Chavez: I’m gonna miss the heat.

Don Billingsley: I’m gonna miss the lights.

Chavez: Yeah. Me, too. Stay low, boys. Keep those feet moving.

Billingsley: Hey, Chavo. Be perfect

Chavez: You be perfect.

If you’re wondering what ‘perfect’ means, in this scenario, Coach Gaines unveiled the

following definition, at his halftime speech during the Texas State Championship: “Being perfect is about being able to look your friends in the eye and know that you didn’t let them down, because you told them the truth. And that truth is that you did everything that you could. There wasn’t one more thing that you could’ve done.”

As we enter into the month of October, let’s collectively take up the challenge to remind our students of how precious these days are. Of how fast they’ll go. So that when their time to move onto life’s bigger and better rewards arrives, they have absolutely no regrets blurring their rearview mirrors.

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: Freeman Public Schools
- ☐ X (Formerly known as Twitter): @Freeman_Falcons and @FreemanPS_Supt

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

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](#)

Homecoming Parade

Friday, October 6th starting at 5:30 Main Street, Adams



Freeman Assessment Schedule 2023-2024				
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		

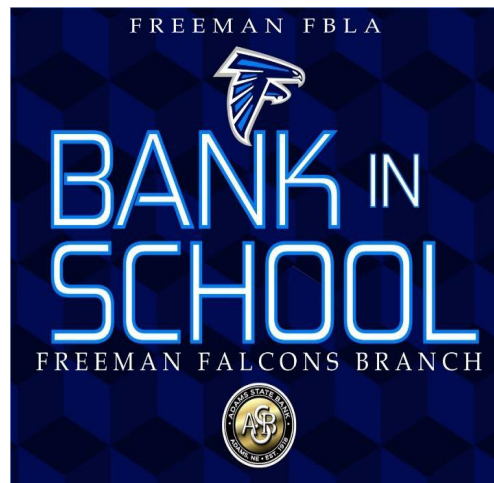
Attention, Junior Parents! The ACT for juniors is March 26, 2024. It is now a state requirement for all juniors to take the AC through the school. Freeman's juniors will be testing at the Adams Community Building on Main Street. The date provided is the ONE DAY across the state that schools can give the paper/pencil version of the test. Therefore, PLEASE MAKE SURE MARCH 21 IS LEFT CLEAR ON YOUR CALENDAR. Do not schedule medical appointments, dental appointments, college visits, etc. More information will follow later.

Parent Reading Meeting MAP Growth and MAP Reading Fluency assessments have been completed for this fall. The NebraskaREADS Initiative sets reading benchmark levels for these assessments in grades Kindergarten through third grade, guiding the qualification for Title 1 and intervention services. Students below the set benchmark are required to receive supplemental instruction in reading. A parent meeting will be held on Monday, October 16 at 6:30 pm in the Freeman Media Center. Information regarding the NebraskaREADS initiative, Title 1 reading, and reading interventions at Freeman will be shared at this meeting. For questions regarding Title 1 Reading, contact Principal Erin Sieh or Title 1 teacher Teri Nieveen.



—We're Not a Fix-It Program

Generally, when someone hears “mentoring,” they tend to think someone is an apprentice to a skilled position, or someone is being tutored to become better at something. Neither is the case with TeamMates. The TeamMates mission is “to positively impact the world by inspiring students to reach their full potential through mentoring.” Mentors help students reach their full potential by guaranteeing a young person that there is someone who cares about them. Mentors listen and encourage their mentee (student). A mentor’s job is not to plan what to do every week, but let the mentee lead, whether they play a game, do an activity, or just talk. At Freeman, we currently have 65 mentors and mentees meeting each week. That’s 65 young people receiving additional encouragement and support in their school day. Consider being a mentor. We still have students on our list looking for a caring adult to support them at school. For more information or to apply to be a mentor, go to TeamMates.org. You can also contact coordinators Danelle Evers or Teri Nieveen at the school.



Bank in School will be the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of Every Month from 7:45 to 8:05 AM in the Elementary Commons

Library with Mrs. Weyer

First graders have been learning about different Fairy Tales in library class. Mrs. Weyer read *The Three Little Pigs* and the *True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. Following the books, first graders designed a house to protect their pigs and then built their house. Then their houses had to be tested by the Big Bad Wolf! There were many different designs. Some of the designs worked and some did not. Keep a lookout for more activities revolving around Fairy Tales from our First Graders! For more pictures, please check out [Mrs. Weyer's Library page.](#)



FRESCO 2023-2024

Our Freeman Elementary Student Council has been elected and set into play for the 2023-2024 school year. Elementary students voted on their leadership right after Labor Day break. Members of the FRESCO team are as follows: (Back Row L-R) Ruby Rinne- Secretary, Millie Garton- Vice President, Neeley Flesner, Reagan Sieh, Deighton Dorn. (Front Row L-R) Keaton Novacek, Jack Bruns, Bryleigh Ideus, Gracelynn Weyer- President, and Leyna Ahlschwede.

FRESCO held their first meeting on Tuesday, September 9th and talked about what they wanted to accomplish for the school year. One of the biggest items that was brought up during the meeting is finding a way to encourage their fellow peers to show Respect to their teachers and classmates every single day. They also planned their first fundraiser that will take place on Friday, September 29th to raise money and awareness for Pediatric Cancer. All proceeds will be donated to PCAN, founded by our very own Leyna Ahlschwede's mom.



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



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 _____

Every 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

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](https://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html](https://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.

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>October 2-6</u>		
Monday:	French Toast	Hamburger, Bun, Baked Beans, Vegetables, Peaches
Tuesday:	Waffles	Chili Dog, Bun, Green Beans, Vegetables, Pears
Wednesday:	Donuts	Chicken Patty, Mashed Potato, Gravy, Bread & Butter, Vegetables, Oranges
Thursday:	Muffin	Spaghetti & Meat sauce, Breadstick, Vegetables, Pineapple
Friday:	Scrambled Eggs	Pizza, Corn, Vegetable, Applesauce
<u>October 9-13</u>		
Monday:	French Toast	Ribette, Bun, Potato Triangles, Vegetables, Pineapples
Tuesday:	Donut	Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potato, Gravy, Bread & Butter or PB, Vegetables, Oranges
Wednesday:	Waffles	Mandarin Chicken. Rice, California Blend, Vegetables, Roll & Butter, Pears
Thursday:	Muffin	Falcon Hero(SUB), Chips, Baked Beans, Vegetables, Peaches
Friday:	Sausage & Biscuit	Fiestada, Corn, Vegetables, Applesauce
<u>October 16-20</u>		
Monday:	French Toast	Corn Dog, Baked Beans, Vegetables, Oranges
Tuesday:	Waffles	Meatballs, Mac-n-Cheese, Vegetables, Applesauce
Wednesday:	donut	Chicken Drummies, Mashed Potato, Gravy, Bread & Butter, Pears
Thursday:	Omelet	Sloppy Joe, Bun, Green Beans, Vegetables, Pineapples
Friday:	NO SCHOOL	
<u>October 23-27</u>		
Monday:	NO SCHOOL	
Tuesday:	NO SCHOOL	
Wednesday:	Donut	Chicken Noodle Soup, Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Peas, Vegetables, Applesauce
Thursday:	Waffles	Walking Tacos, Meat, Cheese, Chips, Vegetables, Oranges
Friday:	Scrambled Eggs	Pizza. Corn, Vegetables. Pineapples
<u>October 30-31</u>		
Monday:	French Toast	Br. Pork Patty, Bun, Potato Triangles, Vegetables, Peaches
Tuesday:	Waffles	Spaghetti & Meat sauce, Breadstick, Vegetables, Pineapple

TOTAL MONTHLY COST

Elementary Lunch	19	\$3.10	\$58.90
JH/HS Lunch	19	\$3.40	\$64.60
Adult Lunch Price:		\$4.60	

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