

Good evening, Freedom families!

This is Dr. Nehrig with your weekly Falcon Update. Tomorrow is the first day of the new school year, and we can't wait to welcome all our little Falcons back to school! This message contains some very important information to make sure our year starts smoothly.

School hours are from 7:50 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. each day, except for early release Wednesdays, when we dismiss at 1:30 p.m.

Until everyone gets used to the routines of a new school year, traffic in the morning and afternoon may be heavier than usual. We ask everyone to plan ahead for possible delays, pack lots of patience, and be kind to other families and our staff.

We have two entrances for morning arrival and afternoon dismissal – the south one is for buses and staff, and the north one is for parents dropping off and picking up students. Parents may not enter the bus loop to drop off or pick up students.

In the afternoon car loop, parents must have a school-issued dashboard sign visible for staff to ensure the right students are loaded into the right vehicles. If you did not receive one at Meet the Teacher, we will provide one for you tomorrow.

For our walkers and bike riders, each entrance has a sidewalk for those students to enter campus from Blue Lake.

Please note – there is no parking or dropping students off on Blue Lake Avenue. Local law enforcement will patrol frequently in our area and assist in enforcement. Let's keep our students safe!

Our campus gates will open at 7:15 for morning supervision. Please do not drop students off prior to 7:15 a.m.

Once students arrive, our staff will guide them to breakfast or one of our supervised morning holding areas. Kindergarten will be in the 700 building, 1<sup>st</sup> grade will be on the outdoor stage, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will wait in the main courtyard in front of the outdoor stage, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be in the PE Pavilion, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade will wait on the basketball courts. Teachers will pick up their classes and walk them to their rooms by the 7:50 late bell. Please note – we are allowing parents of Kindergartners to walk them to class on their first day of staggered start, after checking in through Raptor. If you choose to do this, please be patient with any wait times.

School breakfast and lunch are once again free this year. If you choose to send your child with a packed breakfast or lunch, please know that it needs to be ready to eat – we do not have the ability to heat or prepare student meals from home.

We're looking forward to seeing our little Falcons dressed for success, ready to learn – please be sure to review our district dress code, located on our school website ([freedom.vcsedu.org](http://freedom.vcsedu.org)) on the 'Parents & Students' page.

Students will be sent home with important 1<sup>st</sup> day information – please review it carefully and let us know if you have any questions.

I'll see you tomorrow for our first day of school at Freedom Elementary, where 'We're Soaring High with Falcon Pride!'

Thank you and have a great evening!

Sincerely,

Dr. Nehrig