

Good evening, Freedom families!

This is Dr. Nehrig with your weekly Falcon Update. Thanks to everyone for a great first week of school! It's been exciting to welcome back our students and see their smiles every day. We had lots of fun celebrating the end of our first week with High Five Friday!

This week, Tuesday is a student holiday and Teacher Duty Day. Wednesday is an early release day, with dismissal at 1:30 p.m.

As everyone gets used to the routine, traffic in the morning and afternoon continues to be heavier than usual. Except for days when we used our rainy-day dismissal procedures, we have been reducing our wait times for drop off and pickup each day. To continue to improve traffic flow, we need your help. Please make sure you are pulling all the way forward to drop off or pick up, not leaving a gap in front of your vehicle and holding up the line. Practice with your students to wear their backpacks on their fronts when getting into or out of the vehicle – it really does make it go faster. Remind your students to listen for their names during afternoon pickup so they can quickly report to the loading zone in the front of the car line. Finally, 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!

Due to Florida Statute 1014.06 (Parents Bill of Rights), parents must now provide affirmative consent for schools to provide health care services to minor students. This means that a service we routinely provided in the past such as rendering ice packs, band aids, or taking a student's temperature can no longer take place on the school campus without parental consent on file. The district will require parent/guardian consent to allow for the services traditionally provided by school clinic assistants, including care and treatment for general health services such as basic first aid. This week, new emergency cards with a signature line for consent will be sent home. Until the school receives the VCS Student Emergency Card with Consent, school staff cannot provide band-aids, ice packs, or other services on campus for minor injuries or complaints. Consent must be verified before any treatment is provided.

Registration for our Girls on the Run Team is now open! GOTR is for girls, grades 3-5. We teach important life skills, that help girls understand how to be their best self, building confidence, kindness, and finding a balance between their physical and emotional health. The season ends with a 5K celebration in December. Students who wish to register can visit [gotrnefl.org](http://gotrnefl.org). See 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher Mrs. Flesch 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