



FREEMAN FOCUS

WINTER | SPRING 2026

A Letter to Our Community...

Dear Freeman Students, Staff, Parents, and Community Members,

As we reach the midpoint of the school year, I want to pause and say thank you. Thank you to our students for showing up each day ready to learn and grow, to our staff for their unwavering commitment to kids, and to our parents and community for the continued trust and support you provide our schools. The first half of the year has been filled with hard work, positive momentum, and countless examples of people doing what's right for students.

Across the district, we've seen strong engagement in classrooms, meaningful progress toward our academic and social-emotional goals, and a continued focus on relationships, safety, and belonging. While there is always more work to do, I am proud of the way our Freeman community supports one another, works through challenges together, and keeps students at the center of every decision.

As we look ahead to the second half of the year, our focus remains the same: high expectations, strong relationships, and a commitment to continuous improvement. Thank you for being a partner in this work. Together, we will finish the year strong and continue building the kind of schools and community our students deserve.

**Pride - Commitment - Caring
WE are Freeman**

Sincerely,
Randy L. Russell, Ph.D.
Superintendent

The Spokane Scholars Foundation has been honoring excellence in education in the Spokane region for almost 30 years. They have recognized over 3,500 scholars, honored more than 500 award recipients and given over \$1.5 million in scholarships and cash matches. They take pride in honoring the scholarly success of high school students in our region.

Our Freeman nominees are:



Congratulations to our Freeman
SPOKANE SCHOLARS

 JOSIAH KANN <i>Fine Arts</i>	 MAE CASHMERE <i>Social Studies</i>	 JOSIAH BESSIRE <i>Math</i>
 KALYN SWANSON <i>English</i>	 AVA AYLWARD <i>Science</i>	 TAYLOR JUHNKE <i>World Language</i>



FREEMAN PTSG
PARENT TEACHER STUDENT GROUP

Freeman's Parent Teacher Student Group (PTSG) continues to play a vital role in supporting our staff and students, often bridging critical funding gaps and enhancing opportunities across our schools. We are deeply grateful for their generosity and commitment to enriching student programs and strengthening our school community.

- Nearly \$7,000 in grants supporting K-12 music programs, the TK-8 library, counseling services, and classroom resources
- Partnership with Middle School ASB to support the Scottie Dash
- Support for student and family events such as the Harvest Hoedown, Craft Night, and the Family Glow Dance
- Two \$750 scholarships to be awarded to seniors at Freeman High School this spring

PACE Character Traits

March - **DILIGENCE** 🐾 April - **TRUSTWORTHINESS** 🐾 May - **COURAGE** 🐾 June - **INTEGRITY**

Freeman School District's Standard Response Protocol (SRP)



HOLD



SECURE



LOCKDOWN



EVACUATE



SHELTER

Keeping our students, staff, and families safe is our top priority in the Freeman School District. We are currently updating our Emergency Procedures Manual to align with the Standard Response Protocol (SRP), a nationally recognized school safety framework developed by the I Love U Guys Foundation and used by many school districts across Washington and the nation. These updates strengthen emergency preparedness and help ensure safe, supportive learning environments across our schools. The SRP provides clear, consistent actions during emergencies to improve communication and coordination with first responders.

HOLD – Stay in place; clear the halls; **SECURE** – Get inside; lock outside doors; **LOCKDOWN** – Locks, lights, out of sight; **EVACUATE** – Move to a safe location; **SHELTER** – Use safety strategies for specific hazards.

YOUR SAFETY, SECURITY & TECH LEVY DOLLARS AT WORK



In February 2025, our beloved Freeman community passed a two-year Safety, Security and Technology Levy that provides critical funding for our school district for the 2026 and 2027 calendar years. We have had two unexpected building maintenance items come up recently, and we are grateful that we are in a position to take care of them both. Thank you!

LEFT: \$37,545 - Boiler Repair

This boiler is used for heating the Freeman Elementary School, K-8 Multi-Purpose Room, and District Office.

RIGHT: \$2,417 -

Water Pump Seal Kit
Used to supply water to the entire school district.



Enhancing School Safety with Critical Incident Mapping

Freeman School District is strengthening emergency preparedness through the use of Collaborative Response Graphics (CRGs®), a critical incident mapping solution designed to support schools and first responders. In a crisis, every second matters. CRGs provide clear, unified site maps that combine detailed floor plans, high-resolution imagery, emergency planning information, and a standardized grid system. These maps are shared directly with local first responders and integrated into their response systems, helping ensure faster, more coordinated communication and decision-making. This proactive step reflects our ongoing commitment to the safety and security of our students and staff.

BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE OF A CRITICAL INCIDENT MAP - THIS IS NOT A MAP OF FREEMAN



NEW CROSSWALK SIGN COMING SOON

Based on feedback from staff, students, and community members, Freeman School District will be installing a new solar- or AC-powered crosswalk sign equipped with flashing beacons on Jackson Road. This added safety measure is designed to increase visibility and help ensure safer crossings for our students. Installation is projected for completion by summer 2026.

Student safety remains a top priority, and we appreciate the valuable input from our community in helping guide these improvements.





FREEMAN'S NEXT SUPERINTENDENT

We are excited to share the hiring of **Lisa Phelan** as the Freeman School District's next Superintendent. With nearly 30 years of dedicated service to Freeman as a teacher, coach, principal, and assistant superintendent, Lisa brings deep institutional knowledge and strong instructional and district-level leadership experience. She has led key initiatives including curriculum adoption, MTSS implementation, Transitional Kindergarten, the balanced calendar, and Freeman Connect Ed, while also supporting budget development, levy planning, and long-range facilities planning. Lisa understands the importance of protecting what makes Freeman so special—its strong relationships, shared purpose, and deep sense of community—while continuing to strengthen systems and expand opportunities for students. Her commitment to student-centered leadership, transparency, and collaboration will guide Freeman confidently into its next chapter.

“Lisa has been an incredible leader for our elementary school. While we are sad to lose Mrs. Phelan as principal, we are excited to watch her make a positive impact across the entire Freeman School District.” -Cherie Dexter, 3rd Grade Teacher

“Lisa has always had my back, especially during Covid when I needed it the most.”
-James Jydstrup, Director of Bands, Choir & Drum Line

February 13th was a *presidentially* big day at the Elementary School! Our second graders brought history to life during the **President's Wax Museum**, each portraying either a U.S. President or First Lady. Students confidently shared fun facts and historical highlights with classmates, staff, families, and special guests, impressing everyone with their creativity and knowledge.



Thanks to the Harvest Hoedown raffle, fifth graders Jack Turk and Holden Newcomb scored a pretty special prize—Principal for the Day! On Friday, February 13, Jack and Holden stepped into leadership shoes as they shadowed Elementary Principal Lisa Phelan and got an inside look at what it takes to run a school.



Washington State
KNOWLEDGE BOWL

KNOWLEDGE BOWL

Congratulations to the High School Knowledge Bowl team on an outstanding season thus far! Both the Varsity and JV teams captured the Bi-County Championship, finishing the regular season as champions and earning the top seed heading into the Regional Tournament.

Team members include Captain Josiah Kann, Eli Cotton, Cooper Florence, Hailee Cotton, Colton Wolfenbarger, Matthew Wigen, Logan Melin, Alex Schmidt, Jackson Smith, Jared Dryden and Rylan Talley.

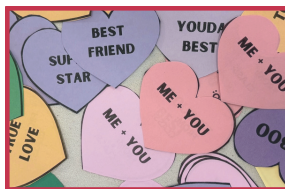




Freeman School District #358
 15001 S Jackson Road
 Rockford, WA 99030

Freeman School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights, Title IX, and Section 504 Compliance Coordinator: Randy Russell, rrussell@freemansd.org, 509-291-3695, 15001 S Jackson Rd. Rockford, WA 99030

Leading up to Valentine's Day, the Middle School ASB hosted a Heartgram fundraiser. For 25¢, students sent notes (with a Tootsie Roll!) to friends while supporting Shriners Children's Hospital in Spokane—spreading kindness across campus for a great cause.



Brenda's Helping Hand

Brenda's Helping Hand is a benevolent fund within Freeman School District Nutrition Services that helps ensure students have access to school meals during times of family hardship. Created in memory of a beloved staff member, the fund reflects our community's care for one another.

Thanks to a recent generous donation, all outstanding meal balances from the previous school year—over \$8,000—were fully paid. Since the start of this school year, meal debt has grown to **\$11,436.95**, impacting both Nutrition Services and the district's general fund.

Community support makes a real difference. Donations of any amount are appreciated and may be made anonymously at the Elementary, Middle School, or High School offices.



COMING UP AT FREEMAN

- 3/6 Snow Make-up Day - NO SCHOOL
- 3/9 Teacher Prof. Development Day - NO SCHOOL
- 3/18 2-Hour Late Start - Bell at 10:15am
- 3/23 School Board Meeting - 6:00pm - PRTC Building
- 3/24 Safety & Security Table Top - 9-11am - PRTC Bldg
- 4/2-4/3 Parent/Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL
- 4/6-4/10 Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
- 4/27 School Board Meeting - 6:00pm - PRTC Building
- 5/27 School Board Meeting - 6:00pm - PRTC Building
- 6/6 High School Graduation - 1:00pm - HS Main Gym
- 6/9 School Board Meeting - 3:00pm - PRTC Building
- 6/9 8th Grade Promotion - 6:00pm - MS Gym

Check out Freeman's website at www.freemansd.org for information regarding additional activity dates/times.

FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
 PRIDE | COMMITMENT | CARING