

# FREEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Mike Allen**  
FES Principal  
mallen@freemansd.org

Main Line: 509-291-4791  
Attendance Line: 509-291-7425  
Transportation: 509-291-5555

**Brianne Wineinger**, FES Secretary  
bwineinger@freemansd.org

FESOffice@freemansd.org  
\*Use this office e-mail for attendance or bus notes\*

**Shayla Daniel**,  
Student Services/FES Secretary  
sdaniel@freemansd.org

## SCOTTIE SCOOP

SEPTEMBER 18,  
2026

### UPCOMING DATES

SEP 18 Mini Cheer Home Football Game  
SEP 22 2:45-5:15pm = Robotics Practice (K-8 MPR)  
SEP 23 10:15am = Late Start  
2:45-4:00pm = Girl Scouts (Comm. Classroom)  
SEP 24 Individual Student Photos  
2:45-5:15pm = Robotics Practice (K-8 MPR)  
SEP 25 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip-Rockford Community and Fair  
SEP 29 2:45-5:15pm = Robotics Practice (K-8 MPR)  
SEP 30 2:45-4:00pm = Girl Scouts (Comm. Classroom)  
OCT 1 2:45-5:15pm = Robotics Practice (K-8 MPR)  
OCT 2 11:00am-2:45pm = Scottie Dash

### ALWAYS BRING YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

We are always happy to have visitors. Please know you must have your Driver's License to check in and get a badge to be able to walk down our hallways when school is in session. If you have to check in your student late, we encourage you to let them walk to class on their own. It becomes a big distraction when they walk into class late, especially with a parent. You also need your Driver's License to check your student out of school early...so always having your Driver's License available at school is the best practice.

### ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

You must excuse your students' absences and tardies within 10 school days. We will no longer accommodate parents calling months late asking to excuse all of their kids' absences.

It is considered a tardy if they are less than 15 minutes late in the morning. Please know that if your student misses more than 15 minutes in the first half or second half of the day, it is considered missing half a day. These half days can add up to a lot of absences. We understand that kids have appointments and other situations come up, but we want you to be aware of how this can affect their attendance.

It is part of our Attendance process to send out letters to parents regarding their student's attendance each year. Please know that this is to keep open communication between the school and the parents. Please reach out with any questions.

### PHOTO OPT OUT

Every student now defaults to "YES" for participating in photos and photos being published in Freeman media like the Scottie Scoop, Freeman website, social media, Yearbook and classroom photo/activity updates. If you do not wish for your student's photo to be taken and published, please reach out to their building's office. If you do not contact us, then our understanding is that you are giving permission to take/publish their photos. If you have students in different buildings, please contact each building.

## PICTURE DAY IS ALMOST HERE!

### Picture Day Tips!

- Make sure your order form is completed and legible
- Avoid shirts with words or logos on the front
- Wear clean and bright clothes
- Practice your natural smile in the mirror
- Fresh haircuts (back of the hair will not show, so try to avoid ponytails and braids)

**PREORDER NOW! 24HRS AFTER PICTURES ARE TAKEN,  
THERE WILL BE A PROCESSING FEE**

To order online at [leosphotography.com](https://leosphotography.com),  
please use school code

Pre-Order with confidence, LEO'S Photography  
has a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee!

**FP3229383**



Freeman Elementary School  
THU, SEP 24, 2026

## RETURNING STUDENT INFORMATION UPDATE

All returning students must have their information updated with their school each year. Please login to Family Access and complete the "FES 26-27 Returning Student Information Update" for each of your students.

**We are over half way to everyone completing the Returning Student Updates! Keep it up! Please complete by September 30th!**

### FAMILY ACCESS LINK

SKYWARD All Students

The screenshot shows the Skyward Family Access interface. On the left sidebar, the 'FES 26-27 Returning Student Information Update' link is highlighted with a red box. The main content area displays a message: 'FES 26-27 Returning Student Information Update is now open until 06/11/2027'. Below this, it states: 'FES 26-27 Returning Student Information Update at FREEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL for the 2026-2027 school year is now open, yet has not been completed for AUDREY and DALLAS.' There are two links: 'Go to FES 26-27 Returning Student Information Update for [redacted]' and 'Go to FES 26-27 Returning Student Information Update for [redacted]'. The bottom of the page shows 'Ethnicity/Race'.

## STAY IN THE KNOW

Want to find out what's going on around the District? Click on the newsletters icon to find all of our newsletters including the District Freeman Focus, the Middle School Scoop and both the High School Friday Flyer and Bagpiper School Newspaper.



NEWSLETTERS

**COUNTDOWN TO THE**

# SCOTTIE DASH

Freeman's largest fundraiser is here! Root for your Scottie and help raise funds to support field trips, extracurricular activities like sports and robotics, playground updates, assemblies, and so much more for Freeman!

**CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER**

October 2, 2026

**Prizes & raffles for every pledge turned in!**

**PLEDGE COLLECTION DAYS**

**MON 9/21**  
**FRI 9/25**  
**FRI 10/2**

## TRANSPORTATION INFO.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

At our school, the safety and well-being of your children are our highest priorities. To ensure a smooth, secure, and stress-free dismissal process for everyone, we need to have clear, consistent communication regarding how your student gets home each day. Please take a moment to review our daily procedures and the safety requirements for making any changes to your child's routine.



### The 2:00 PM Communication Deadline

We deliver physical dismissal notes and updates to classrooms daily at 2:15 PM. To guarantee that your child's teacher receives the update before dismissal, all transportation changes must be submitted before 2:00 PM. Changes requested after this time cannot be guaranteed, as our staff is heavily focused on wrapping up instruction and preparing students for departure.



### How to Report a Change

To ensure accuracy and safety, we cannot accept verbal instructions from students. If your child's normal afternoon routine changes (e.g., riding a different bus, going to after-school care, or being picked up by a different adult other than registered guardians, even emergency contacts will need a note), you must notify us using one of the three approved methods:

- **Send a note to the classroom:** Write a clear, signed paper note and place it in your student's folder or backpack to hand to their teacher in the morning.
- **Send an email to the office:** Email our main office administrative staff directly. [fesoffice@freemansd.org](mailto:fesoffice@freemansd.org) Please do not email the teacher for changes. Classroom teachers may not get the communication before the 2:00 deadline.
- **Call the office:** Phone the front desk directly to speak with an FES office representative.
- **Rotating Schedule of Dismissal:** If your child's schedule changes daily, such as T/TH Parent Pickup and M/W/F Bus. You need to send a note of the communication each day. With the number of students in our school staff is unable to track multiple students' varying schedules.
- **All changes must be made by listed parents and/or guardians.** Students may not use cellular devices (phones or watches) to make alternate arrangements during the school day.



### Required Information for Changes

When sending any communication, please always include:

- The student's full name and grade/teacher
- The specific change being made (e.g., "Parent Pick Up instead of Bus 4")
- The name of the authorized adult picking them up (if applicable)

Thank you so much for your partnership, understanding, and cooperation in keeping our students safe!



# NUTRITION SERVICES MENUS AND UPDATES

**2025-26 Free & Reduced Meal Benefits Expire Oct. 1**

Students who received Free & Reduced Price Meal benefits last year have temporary coverage for the first 30 school days of this year.

For the 2026-27 school year, this grace period ends on October 1.

A new CNEEB application must be submitted every school year. To avoid any interruption in meal benefits—or to apply for the first time—please complete and submit your CNEEB application as soon as possible.

## 26-27 BREAKFAST and LUNCH PRICES

**Elementary**  
Breakfast: \$2.35  
Lunch: \$3.90

**Milk**  
\$0.60

**Adults**  
Breakfast: \$3.20  
Lunch: \$5.00

**BREAKFAST**

**LUNCH**

| MONDAY                                                | TUESDAY                                              | WEDNESDAY                                                    | THURSDAY                                   | FRIDAY                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 21<br>Breakfast Cookie/<br>Cereal Varieties           | 22<br>Biscuit French Toast bake/<br>Cereal Varieties | 23<br>Late Start PD<br>No Breakfast                          | 24<br>Egg McFreeman/<br>Cereal Varieties   | 25<br>Breakfast Pizza/<br>Cereal Varieties     |
| MONDAY                                                | TUESDAY                                              | WEDNESDAY                                                    | THURSDAY                                   | FRIDAY                                         |
| 21<br>Spaghetti with Meat Sauce/<br>Alternate Options | 22<br>Nachos/<br>Alternate Options                   | 23<br>Late Start PD<br>Chicken Nuggets/<br>Alternate Options | 24<br>Assorted Pizza/<br>Alternate Options | 25<br>Corn Dog with Tots/<br>Alternate Options |

## STUDENT SERVICES

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but absences add up!

**When a student misses 2 days a month..**

They will miss **20 DAYS** a year.

They will miss **30 HOURS** of math over the school year.

They will miss **60 HOURS** of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over **1 YEAR** of school by graduation.

**When a student misses 4 days a month..**

They will miss **40 DAYS** a year.

They will miss **60 HOURS** of math over the school year.

They will miss **120 HOURS** of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over **2 YEARS** of school by graduation.

### CHILD FIND

Freeman School District provides **FREE** Child Find screenings to locate and identify children with delays or disabilities who may be in need of early intervention or special education services.

**CONCERNS MAY INCLUDE:**

- SPEECH OR LANGUAGE
- LEARNING AND UNDERSTANDING
- COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT
- SOCIAL SKILLS
- SELF-HELP SKILLS (FEEDING, DRESSING, TOILETING)
- BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT
- VISION OR HEARING

Any condition that may affect a child's ability to learn can be a basis for referral.

To schedule your child's free screening-call or email Stacey Rawson, Student Services Director at (509) 291-4791 or [srawson@freemansd.org](mailto:srawson@freemansd.org)

## OPT INTO TEXT MESSAGES FROM FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Stay connected and receive text messages from the school. This includes notification when the newsletters are ready, information messages and emergency alerts. Follow the QR code below and opt in

Opt-In from  
your mobile  
now!

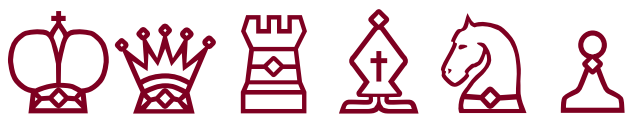


Just send "Y"  
or "Yes" to  
67587.

Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes: SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers.

If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

\*Terms and Conditions: Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See [schoolmessenger.com/tm](http://schoolmessenger.com/tm) for more info.



# Freeman School CHESS CLUB

*Sign up for Autumn 2026 Grades 2-8*

**SCHEDULE: After School, Thursdays 3:00 – 4:00 pm**

**8 Weeks: Oct 8, 15, 29 Nov 5, 12, 19 Dec 3, 10**



**Professional Chess Coach Dennis Pirello** provides lectures, videos, and exercises, then facilitates tournament play. Students compete for club tournament awards. The chess club also competes against other clubs in regional tournaments held on Saturdays (this is an optional activity). Qualifying students are encouraged to enter the WA State Elementary Chess Championship, April 24, 2027, Spokane, WA.

*See tournament and camp schedule: [www.inlandchess.org](http://www.inlandchess.org)*

**TUITION ~ \$90 for 8 weeks.** Each session is one hour. *Registration form below.*

Tuition pays for: **A.** coaching fees, **B.** coaching supplies, **C.** end of semester awards, **D.** insurance, coach development, and administration costs. Note: Inland Chess Academy does not contact children directly by phone, text, or email.

Installment payments are accepted and limited scholarships are available.

**Parents are encouraged to attend chess club to learn and play (free of charge).**

**Cut >** -----

## REGISTRATION for Freeman School Chess Club ~ Autumn 2026

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ New to Chess Club? \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ New to Chess Club? \_\_\_\_\_

Chess Skill: \_\_\_ Beginner \_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_ Advanced Played in tournament? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

### ALLERGIES and/or SPECIAL ISSUES: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** As required by safety best practice and school and insurance policy, parents are required to pick up students on time and must sign the check-out registry. Coaches have other teaching obligations and must not be delayed. Non-parental pick-up must be confirmed in writing.

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ eMail: \_\_\_\_\_  
(or Guardian)

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ eMail: \_\_\_\_\_  
(or Guardian)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ WA ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$90 Chess club tuition for 8 weeks. Partial payments are accepted. Scholarships are available.

\_\_\_ \$15 **OPTIONAL** Tournament style chess set for study and play at home.

\_\_\_ \$18 **OPTIONAL** Annual subscription to [www.chesskid.com](http://www.chesskid.com) a child safe study and play website.

\_\_\_ \$22 **OPTIONAL** Annual subscription to Chess Magnet School, a child safe study website.

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Make check payable to Inland Chess Academy. Mail registration to Inland Chess Academy, leave them with the school office, or bring them to first day of Chess Club.

**Inland Chess Academy ~ Licensed, insured WA state non-profit, 501c3, educational organization.**

920 N. Argonne Rd., Suite 120, Spokane Valley, WA 99212 509-822-9800  
[chess@inlandchess.org](mailto:chess@inlandchess.org) [www.inlandchess.org](http://www.inlandchess.org) [facebook.com/inlandchess](https://facebook.com/inlandchess)



**NOTICE to PARENTS:** Scientific research proves the study of chess enhances academic performance, increases overall brain functions, and builds positive behavior. In order for students to realize the enormous benefits of chess, daily study is required. Research shows that a minimum of 20 minutes of daily study yields significant academic and behavioral benefits. Inland Chess Academy offers two optional child-safe websites programs for home study: Chess Magnet School and ChessKid, at discounted prices. Also available are home study workbooks. Please support chess study at home.

Contact [chess@inlandchess.org](mailto:chess@inlandchess.org) or phone 509-822-9800

The Inland Chess Academy's curriculum is built on research proven methods developed by chess masters and educators, and recommended by the United States Chess Federation (USCF).

**Beginner** - Beginners learn and demonstrate the basics of chess play, chess rules, and etiquette.

**Intermediate** - Students learn algebraic notation, playing with a clock, an understanding of strategies for opening a chess game, major tactical techniques, and basic endgame theory.

**Advanced** - Students develop advanced competitive strategies including an opening repertoire, positional strategies, tactical combinations, endgame play, and methods of applying sport psychology to their games.

**All** students gain knowledge of chess history, chess news, and grow their appreciation of chess. Students are encouraged to play in regional and state tournaments for individual and team awards. *Tournament schedule:* [www.InlandChess.org](http://www.InlandChess.org)

The Inland Chess Academy is building a vibrant chess community:

- ~ Regional tournaments for students and parents, twice monthly on Saturdays.
- ~ Camps on holidays, spring break, and during summer.
- ~ Tutoring and special interest study groups.

*"Chess is the only activity for our youth where they are expected to sit quietly and think long thoughts." JJ Dill II*

**Inland Chess Academy**

*An insured and licensed 501c3 WA non-profit educational organization.*

920 N. Argonne Rd., Suite 120, Spokane Valley, WA 99212 509-822-9800

[chess@inlandchess.org](mailto:chess@inlandchess.org)

[www.InlandChess.org](http://www.InlandChess.org)

[facebook.com/inlandchess](https://facebook.com/inlandchess)



# FREEMAN FOCUS

FALL 2026

## Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year!

Dear Freeman Families and Community,

It is with tremendous gratitude and excitement that I welcome you to the 2026-2027 school year as your Superintendent. This year marks a special milestone in my own Freeman journey. Nearly 30 years ago, I began my career here as a teacher and coach. Since then, I have had the privilege of serving as an Elementary Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and now Superintendent.

Through every role and every season, one thing that has remained constant is my deep love for Freeman and my belief in the people who make this community so special.

There is truly only one Freeman. One community, one team, united by our commitment to every student. Together, we will continue building a culture of belonging, strong relationships, high expectations, and opportunities for every student to learn, grow and succeed.

It is an honor to continue to serve this community. Thank you for your partnership and support.

**Go Scotties!**

Lisa Phelan  
Superintendent



## BACK TO SCHOOL

August 19th was a big day as we welcomed students back for the first day of the 2026-2027 school year! KXLY joined in the excitement to interview our new Superintendent, Lisa Phelan, new Elementary Principal, Mike Allen, and returning 2nd grade teacher, Emily Nelson. It was a beautiful day filled with smiles, excitement and the joy of having our students back on campus. We're looking forward to a wonderful school year ahead!



FMS Students



2026-2027 Transportation Team



Barb Gady, Kim Davey & Angie Smith

## PACE Character Traits

September - **RESPECT** 🐾 October - **RESPONSIBILITY** 🐾 November - **CITIZENSHIP** 🐾 December - **CARING**



# YOUR SAFETY, SECURITY & TECH LEVY DOLLARS AT WORK

Thanks to the generous support of our community through the Safety, Security & Technology Levy, which provides funding for calendar years 2026 and 2027, we were able to make a number of important campus improvements this summer. Levy dollars are helping us maintain safe, welcoming, and technology-ready learning environments across our schools. This summer's projects included:

- Crosswalk lighting and flashers to improve visibility and pedestrian safety - **\$42,000**
- Crack repair and resealing of parking lots and the FES/FMS playground - **\$34,743**
- Updated lighting in the TK-8 Multi-Purpose Room - proposal is **\$22,645**
- Gym floor refinishing at all three schools - **\$14,832** (paid by EP&O levy funds)
- FES playground bark replacement - **\$4,218**
- Technology repairs and updates across our campus - **\$525,000** (includes the items below)
  - Chromebooks - **\$283,000**
  - District DataCenter (including replacement of 28 servers that were end of life) - **\$126,000**
  - Network Switching (backbone of all connectivity for the district) - **\$116,000**



Thanks to student feedback from FHS and FMS, the district has added four new rapid flashing beacons at district crosswalks, along with lighting bars at our transportation entrances. These improvements enhance visibility in all conditions, support safe and independent crossing for students, staff, and community members and help strengthen a culture of safety throughout our community.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**Elementary and Middle School Playground**



## NEW CHROMEBOOKS!

One of the most exciting highlights of the start of the school year is the arrival of new Chromebooks for our students! After several years of challenges with aging devices, these new Chromebooks will provide students with more reliable and consistent access to the learning tools they use every day. We're excited to see our students put them to work!

**THANK YOU**  
THANK YOU THANK YOU







2026-2027 FSD Staff

**"It takes an entire school community to support a child; every role is a vital thread in the fabric of a student's success." — Anonymous**

## WELCOME TO THE FREEMAN FAMILY

We are excited to welcome several new members to the Freeman team! These talented professionals bring valuable experience, knowledge and expertise to our schools. We are thrilled to add them to our amazing staff, whose dedication and energy help make the Freeman community such a strong and special place.

- **Reece Bauer** - High School Counselor
- **Sydney Beach** - Paraeducator
- **Katelyn Bedolla** - Middle School Secretary
- **Lauren Burrows** - Speech Language Pathologist
- **Alexa Cach & Kelsie Carter** - Occupational Therapists
- **Melisa Collins** - Elementary Special Education Teacher
- **Bo Nielsen** - High School Construction & Metals Teacher
- **Kristie Parham** - Bus Driver
- **Rachel Shrauger** - High School Agriculture Science Teacher
- **Joanna Yearta** - School Psychologist

### CHILD FIND

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- SPEECH OR LANGUAGE
- LEARNING AND UNDERSTANDING
- COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT
- SOCIAL SKILLS
- SELF-HELP SKILLS (FEEDING, DRESSING, TOILETING)
- BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT
- VISION OR HEARING

Any condition that may affect a child's ability to learn can be a basis for referral. To schedule your child's free screening-call or email Stacey Rawson, Student Services Director at (509) 291-4791 or [srawson@freemansd.org](mailto:srawson@freemansd.org)

## LIBRARY



Help invest in the next generation by volunteering in the Freeman library! Library volunteers work directly with students by reading, helping students choose books and supporting literacy activities. Volunteers also help behind the scenes by shelving books, preparing new materials and making book repairs.

Weekly volunteer opportunities are available mornings and afternoons, Monday-Friday, with flexible hours. Interested? Contact Susan Chadduck, TK-8 Library Coordinator, at [schadduck@freemansd.org](mailto:schadduck@freemansd.org). Complete the online volunteer application on the Freeman School District website at [www.freemansd.org](http://www.freemansd.org).







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: Lisa Phelan, lphelan@freemansd.org, 509-291-3695, 15001 S Jackson Rd. Rockford, WA 99030

### 2026-2027 FHS Athletics

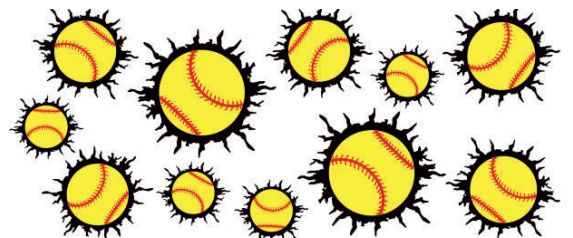
Please join us for an athletic event this fall! Visit [www.goscotties.org](http://www.goscotties.org) for complete schedules, and check below for the first matches and competitions of our fall sports season.



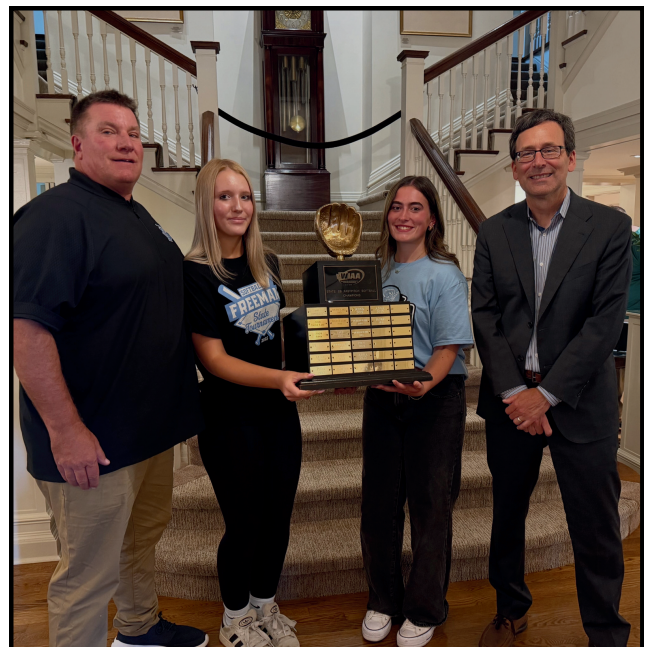
## COMING UP AT FREEMAN

|             |                                                                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9/4         | NO SCHOOL                                                                       |
| 9/7         | Labor Day - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>                                                    |
| 9/21        | School Board Meeting - 6:00pm - PRTC Building                                   |
| 9/23        | 2-Hour Late Start - Bell at 10:15am                                             |
| 10/22-10/23 | Conference Days - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>                                              |
| 10/26       | School Board Meeting - 6:00pm - PRTC Building                                   |
| 11/4        | 2-Hour Late Start - Bell at 10:15am                                             |
| 11/10       | Veterans Day Community Program<br>- 9:30am - HS Blue Gym                        |
| 11/11       | Veterans Day - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>                                                 |
| 11/23-11/27 | Thanksgiving Break - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>                                           |
| 11/30       | School Board Meeting - 6:00pm - PRTC Building                                   |
| 12/2        | 2-Hour Late Start - Bell at 10:15am                                             |
| 12/14       | Winter Concert - HS Blue Gym<br>- Grades K-2 = 5:30pm<br>- Grades 6-12 = 7:00pm |

Check out Freeman's website at [www.freemansd.org](http://www.freemansd.org) for information regarding additional activity dates/times.



Freeman High School 2026 State B Softball Champions were invited to Olympia to meet with Washington State Governor Bob Ferguson in recognition of their outstanding accomplishment. The team was honored for their hard work, dedication and championship season. Pictured from left to right are Coach Tom Sefton, Laurel Sefton, Paige Lochmiller and Governor Ferguson.



**FREEMAN** SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PRIDE | COMMITMENT | CARING