

Freeman Middle Scoop – 9-25-26

FMS Office Hours are 7:45 am to 3:45 pm. Doors are open to students at 8 am.

Email: FMSoffice@freemansd.org

Office phone (509)291-7301 Attendance line (509)291-7425

One Week Until Scottie Dash!

Scottie Dash- Friday, October 2nd

Thank you to our sponsors:

- Amplify Real Estate Services
- Broadway Heights Dental
- CHS Primeland
- Dave's Hot Chicken
- Design IT Solutions
- Fulcrum Financial Group
- Gray Service Plumbing
- Hawley Family
- Inland Empire Golf
- iSmile Orthodontics
- L&M Truck Sales
- Palouse Doodles, LLC
- Scott Family Orthodontics
- Swell Coffee
- Zimmy's Flooring

One collection day is left, Friday- October 2nd. Our table will be set up in front of Freeman Elementary School from 7:40 am to 8:15 am.

Then on Friday, Oct. 2nd, students and staff from Freeman Elementary and Middle Schools will participate in the run on the Freeman School District Track. All participants will receive a shirt, enjoy a treat and have the chance to earn prizes. This fundraiser is a joint effort between the TK-8 Associated Student Body (ASB) and the Parent, Teacher, Student Group (PTSG). The proceeds will benefit our students through field trips, community events, sports, clubs, playground updates, assemblies and more!

Class times on track are as follows:

TK	11:15 – 11:45
K-1	11:45 – 12:15
2-3	12:30 – 1:00

4-5 1:15 – 1:45

FMS 2:05-2:40

For questions or to confirm your sponsorship commitment or to discuss any further details, please feel free to contact me, Jim Straw, directly at jstraw@freemansd.org or Mike Allen at mallen@freemansd.org

You can go to our Scottie Dash website:

<https://wa-freeman-lite.intouchrecepting.com/ScottieDash>

– This link is available to send to friends and family so they can donate directly.



Link to Volunteer- [Click Here!](#)

[Freeman PTSG: Scottie Dash](#)

Behind the Scenes: How Our MS Team Used Wednesday's Late Start

While students enjoyed extra time to recharge this past Wednesday, September 23rd, our Middle School staff hit the ground running for our first 2-hour Late Start of the school year.

This time is crucial for our teachers and staff to collaborate, align instructional strategies across grade levels, and ensure every student gets the support they need to succeed.

Here are the key themes and focus areas from our morning together:

1. Vertical Alignment & Standards-Based Learning

A major theme across departments is **vertical alignment**—making sure what students learn in 6th grade seamlessly builds into 7th, 8th, and high school.

- **English Language Arts (ELA):** The MS ELA team examined the newly refreshed standards across all grade levels to refine teaching methods for both reading and writing content.
- **Science:** Science teachers collaborated on vertical alignment between middle and high school coursework, mapping out common cross-grade scientific skills and designing diagnostic assessments to identify student learning gaps early.
- **Physical Education:** PE staff worked together to align fitness testing standards across grade levels.

2. Refining Assessment Formats

Collaborative Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) met to review and improve how student growth is evaluated.

- **Math PLC:** Math teachers reviewed test structure strategies, focusing on how to level assessment problems (80%, 90%, and 100% mastery levels) to challenge every learner effectively.

3. Specialized Student Support & Tech Tools

- **Special Education & Paraprofessionals:** SPED educators collaborated on writing standards-based IEP goals, navigating our new online IEP program, and partnering with 6th-grade teachers to integrate technology instruction into core academic skills.
- **EdTech Exploration:** Staff members discussed integrating new digital platforms, including exploring tools like Claude for Education to support future classroom learning.

4. Arts, Culture, and Support Operations

- **Music:** Fine arts staff mapped out goals for the year, discussing strategies to get students comfortable stepping out of their comfort zone, instilling a love for music, and planning for upcoming performances like the Veterans Day assembly.
- **Operations & Certification:** Classified staff finalized required certifications, prepped learning environments, and provided essential childcare services to support staff families during the late start hours.

Our team's commitment to continuous learning directly elevates classroom instruction for all students. We are deeply grateful for these focused planning times to help our school community thrive!

Spirit Week 9/28-10/2

Spirit Week Dress up Themes:

Monday- *Bikers vs. Surfers OR color Black*

Tuesday- *Rhyme w/o Reason OR color White*

Wednesday- *Twin Day (triplets, quads, etc.) OR color Green*

Thursday- *Teachers/Students Swap OR color Red*

Friday- *Scottie Power/Spirit (wear your FSD gear) OR color Blue*

Costume Guidelines for Halloween & Spirit Weeks

Costumes are a fun way to show enthusiasm and build community, but they must also support a safe and positive learning environment. Please follow these guidelines:

- Costumes should be school-appropriate and should not interfere with learning.
- No gore, weapons or any item that looks like a weapon, or inappropriate themes (including violence, alcohol, or other adult content).
- Masks may not be worn during class or instruction but can be worn during transitions or social times (e.g., before school, lunch, passing periods).
- Accessories must not interfere with learning, block vision, or cause distraction.
- Costumes should allow full participation in regular school activities and comply with the school dress code.

Nutrition Services:

- *The FSD Nutrition Services web page is now live. You can find documents and links relating to FSD Nutrition Services on the Freeman School District website under **Departments**.*
- *Click the following link to be taken directly to the Nutrition Services web page: <https://www.freemansd.org/district-departments/nutrition-services/nutrition-services-home>*

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.

- *Each school year, students who were on the free/reduced eligibility meal program for the previous school year are allowed to carry over their eligibility into the new school year for 30 School Days from the first day of school. For SY 2026/27, that 30-day window ends on October 1, 2026. If we do not have an updated free/reduced price meal application, or other qualifying updated eligibility status for the new school year, any students who qualified for free/reduced price meals during the previous school year automatically have their eligibility changed to Paid effective Oct 2, 2026. Applications can be completed online through Skyward Family Access or applications may be picked up from the school district.*

Attendance Reminders:

- You must excuse your student's absences and tardies within 10 school days. We will no longer accommodate calling months later to excuse multiple absences.
- It is considered tardy, if they are less than 15 minutes late to class. Otherwise, it is considered absent.
- You should be receiving a call home after school whether your student was absent or late for class.
- We understand that students 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 or calls 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.

Student Pick-up & Visitors:

- When picking up your student from school, for appointments, early release etc. Please bring your Driver's License or ID card. You will need it to check your student out.

- Our new procedure is you must check out your student from our tablet in the office. Please do not call to have your student meet you in the parking lot/pick-up area without scanning your ID first.
- They will not be called out of class until they been signed out in the office.
- For Volunteers/Visitors, please know you must have your Driver's License/ID to check in and get a badge to be able to walk down our hallways when school is in session.

ASB Cards/Sports Fees-

- Fees paid through Intouch or the office, no option to pay in Final Forms.
- InTouch – Pay Fees
- Middle School Sport Participation Fees - ASB Card (once annually) - \$30.
Transportation Fee (once annually) -\$10 Yearly Total- \$40
- ACTIVITY BUS
 - We have an Activity Bus that runs after sports M-F for the first two weeks of Middle School Sports Seasons and then M-Th the rest of the year. The bus departs at 5:25pm. Questions or more details, call the Transportation Department at 291-5555.
- Robotics also needs to pay for ASB & Transportation

Once your ASB Card is purchased you may pick it up in the office during passing periods, before & after school. **They will not be handed out during class.**

- **Wrestling & Volleyball Info**
 - Wrestling and Volleyball practice begins **October 15th. Parent Meeting on Oct. 19th**
 - If your student would like to participate, please make sure they are signed up in Final Forms. Information about Final Forms can be found on the FMS Athletics Site. Sports physicals are required to participate in practice on the first day. We can take a hard copy in the office, or you can be uploaded directly into Final Forms.
 - **Parent and Student forms that need to be completed prior to the season starting.**
 - Before the first competition, ASB and Transportation fees must be paid. This can be done in person at the office or through Skyward
 - Please reach out to Sierra McGarity, FMS Athletic Coordinator, with any questions. smcgarity@freemansd.org

Upcoming Sport Games:

- 9/30/26 **Cross-Country GSCL All Team Invite @ Freeman - 3:45pm**
- 10/1/26 **8th Grade Football** vs. Centennial @ Centennial – 3:45pm

- 10/1/26 **7th Grade Football** vs. Centennial @ **Freeman** – 3:45pm
- 9/28/26 **Softball** vs. Westwood @ **Freeman** – 3:45 pm
- 9/30/26 **Softball** vs. East Valley @ East Valley – 3:45 pm

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

- 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 clubs to learn and play (free of charge).

- If you want to register for Freeman School Chess Club, stop by the office to pick up a flyer!

Library Reports:

- **Library Reports are posted in the hallway. Please check to see if you have an overdue or missing book AND check whether you have fines due for late, damaged, or lost books.** Don't forget books need to be returned or renewed EVERY two weeks.
- Mrs. Chadduck can answer questions about your account before and after school. Fines must be paid at the office.
- Let's get our books back on the shelf so everyone can enjoy them!

RETURNING STUDENTS:

- Every year we must have all back-to-school forms completed for every student.
- Contact the FMS office at FMSoffice@freemansd.org if you need help logging into your Family Access Account.
- Please log in to Family Access and complete form sets for each student.
- You can find this on the left side of your home page on the Skyward Family Access screen titled “FMS Registration for All Returning Students”.

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.