

HILL HIGHLIGHTS

"We Go the Extra Mile!"

Freedom Hill Elementary



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<http://www.fcps.edu/FreedomHillES>

Welcome Back

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year at Freedom Hill Elementary. In these first five days our teachers and staff have engaged 548 students in school routines and new learning. In each of our 31 classrooms children have shared some of their experiences and they have been involved creating positive classroom environments where respect, caring and learning are valued. Teachers have examined student data from last year, and they have designed and given assessments to pinpoint what students know today. Our theme this year is *"We Go the Extra Mile,"* and throughout our building teachers believe in great possibilities for each child this school year. Believing in our children and teachers will lead to great academic progress. It's going to be an exciting year!

We look forward to seeing you for Back-To-School Night, September 17 at 7 p.m.

Arrival-Dismissal

School hours have changed slightly. Classes begin at 9:15 a.m. and dismissal is now at 1:25 p.m. on Monday and 3:55 p.m. on Tuesday-Friday. Students should arrive at school between 9:00 a.m. and 9:10 a.m. To ensure the safety of our students please plan ahead so that children do not get to school before 9 a.m. Bus arrival/dismissal will function as it did last year, and we will use our new Kiss and Ride plan, which is similar to last year.

Elementary School Attendance and Engagement

FCPS is using a new Automated Attendance Calling system this year. Attendance will be checked daily here at Freedom Hill. Calls and e-mails will follow within 30 minutes via the Automated Attendance Calling system if you do not call the attendance line (703-506-7878) to report your child's absence and reason for the absence prior to 9:15AM.

From the time parents enroll their child in kindergarten, the child quickly learns that school "is the place to be." Education is an opportunity to a world of learning. FCPS is committed to providing stimulating curriculum in all subjects and believes that the adults in our students' lives have a role in ensuring that all students are connected, committed, and engaged in the learning process. At times, barriers arise that interfere with attendance—students may have a difficult transition to a new grade or school, a chronic illness, family challenges that prevent school attendance, etc. FCPS is committed to identifying and addressing these challenges as soon as possible so that the student can quickly resume school attendance.

Flu Update

FCPS would like to remind you of the everyday steps that can help prevent the transmission of flu viruses:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If hands are not visibly soiled, hand sanitizers containing at least 60 percent alcohol are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with a flu-like illness, the CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) Keep away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick.

Breakfast and Lunch

Students are using a PIN number system instead of cards this year but cash is still welcome. Students eligible for free and reduced-price meals last school year will receive these benefits until September 25. NEW applications for free and reduced-price meals must be received and approved for their eligibility to continue after September 25. Completed applications should be returned to the Office of Food and Nutritional Services as soon as possible.

Parent Information Nights – Advanced Academics

On Thursday, October 8th we will be hosting a Parent Information Night on our Advanced Academic Programs (formerly known as the Gifted & Talented Program) at 7:00 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. Come by and meet your new Advanced

Academic Resource Teacher, Theresa Nolan, and hear about the referral process as well as an overview of the levels of services provided to students. We will also share information about the CogAT test given to all 2nd grade students and students new to FCPS.

Each year the county offers parents an opportunity to hear this same information from the Advanced Academic Programs Office, first hand. These large group meetings are held in area high schools, so please feel free to attend any of these sessions as well. All sessions run from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and are open to the public. Registration is not necessary.

- October 8, McLean High School
- October 13, Oakton High School
- October 15, Annandale High School
- October 19, West Potomac High School

2009-2010 School Year Calendars

The calendars for the 2009-2010 school year are available online at <http://www.fcps.edu/cal.htm>.

Community Dialogue Sessions

FCPS and Fairfax County will be co-hosting a series of community dialogue sessions again this fall focused on addressing the projected budget shortfall for FY 2011. Twelve meetings will be held over six dates between late September and mid-November. Five of these meetings will take place in FCPS high schools throughout the county. More information will be forth coming.





We're Going Paperless!

This will be your last paper copy of Hill Highlights as we are going green! Future issues will be emailed to families every other Tuesday. Please make sure you have provided the office with your current email address(s). If you do not have an email account, we will be happy to print a copy for you. Just let us know.



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14	15	16 Fifth Grade Field Trip to International Children's Festival 	17 Back to School Night 7:00PM 	18
21	22	23 PICTURE DAY! 	24 PTA Back-to-School BBQ! 	25
28	29	30	1	2 Assembly "Furia Flamenca" 1:45 K-3 rd 2:45 4 th -6 th 