

HILL HIGHLIGHTS

"WE GO THE EXTRA MILE!"

Freedom Hill Elementary



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









Believing and Being Inspired

We are now four weeks into the 2009-2010 school year and it is a time to pause and reflect. Each new school year brings change, new expectations and new challenges. In addition this year we opened many new locations throughout our building at the last minute due to renovation. Mrs. Lewis, our excellent interim assistant principal, and I have the opportunity to see the bigger picture of what happens in our community school and there is much to share. Our office staff has met the challenge of an ever increasing enrollment and the additional demands of onsite construction with smiles and hard work. Our library is busy with children finding good stories and great non-fiction books to check out. The schedule for the computer lab is packed as students receive internet safety lessons and begin to use the computer as a tool to engage them in learning this year. Teachers are using a new SMART Sync system to provide students feedback and monitor their work. The new gym is home to disciplined skill lessons and the base of our school wide running program. Children engage in song and movement in our music program, and they have the opportunity to create visual products in art class.

What is more difficult to share in words is what we discover and witness in our classrooms. Recently we observed two teachers team teach a lesson on place value with precision and enthusiasm that was engaging for the students. They used the SMARTBoard to focus attention on decimal place value to the hundredth. We have primary classrooms where young students select color-coded "just right books" for independent reading. We have observed students working in small groups on differentiated assignments in language arts, math, social studies, and science. On another day we saw an occupational therapist work with an instructional assistant to assess children's interest levels and their finger-hand motor ability. The collaboration of teachers supports student achievement.

This past week the school has been busy with before- and after-school activities sponsored by our most supportive PTA. It is so good to see the children involved in a variety of activities ranging from *Girls On the Run* and Ultra Sports to Photography, Reader's Theater and Story Crafts. What amazes me are our teachers who plan and guide these classes. Their energy and enthusiasm inspires me. We will soon begin a before-school math club organized by teachers for invited students to enjoy extra time for learning. Our staff comes early and works late to serve the needs of our students. Finally, I must honor our teachers who demand that we pay attention to the latest research on education in our continuing journey to provide the best instruction for our students. I am inspired by the work of everyone here on the Freedom Hill team. Thank you!

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12 COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY 	13 CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION WEEK 	14 SSA STEPHENS AND VOTING	15	16
19	20	21	22	23 First Grade Field Trip to the Frying Pan Park 
 CogAT Testing for Second Grade and Selected Third through Sixth Graders 				
 RIF WEEK! 				
26	27	28	29	30 Sixth Grade Field Trip to the National Gallery of Art  FIFTH GRADE WAX MUSEUM PROJECT 2:00-3:00 