

**FREEDOM HILL  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
STUDENT-PARENT  
HANDBOOK  
2009 – 2010**



**“WE GO THE EXTRA MILE!”**

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# FREEDOM HILL ELEMETARY SCHOOL

1945 Lord Fairfax Road  
Vienna, VA 22182

Tim Stanley, Principal  
Amy Callahan, Assistant Principal  
Jessica Lewis, Interim Assistant Principal

Main Office: 703-506-7800  
Attendance Line: 703-506-7878  
Cafeteria: 703-506-7821  
Clinic: 703-506-7810  
Preschool Office: 703-506-7844  
FAX: 703-506-7897  
FCPS Hotline: 800-839-FCPS (3277)  
<http://www.fcps.edu/FreedomHillES>

School Mascot: Eagle  
School Colors: Red & White  
2009-2010 School Motto: "We Go The Extra Mile"

**School Vision:** Freedom Hill Elementary School is developing into a community of continuous inquiry and improvement—a Professional Learning Community. We are dedicated to guiding our students to be intrinsically motivated to become contributing members of society. This goal is becoming embedded in our school culture and increasingly drives the work we do everyday.

**School Mission:** Freedom Hill Elementary School creates and develops students who:

- thrive and grow academically
- respect community
- become lifelong learners

**Core Values/Beliefs:** Our students will exhibit self-esteem and perseverance. Our students will take risks, volunteer, and love learning.

\*The information contained in this handbook will answer your questions concerning school policies. All policies and regulations of the school are made with the safety and welfare of the children in mind. PLEASE KEEP THIS HANDBOOK FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. Parents will be notified of changes as they occur.

# 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

September 8	School Begins
October 12	Columbus Day Holiday
October 30	First Grading Period Ends
November 2-3	Teacher Workdays
November 25	Early Dismissal
November 26-27	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 23	Early Dismissal
December 24-January 1	Winter Vacation
January 18	King's Birthday Holiday
January 28	Second Grading Period Ends
January 29-February 1	Teacher Workdays
February 15	Washington's Birthday Holiday
March 29-April 2	Spring Vacation
April 9	Third Grading Period Ends
April 12	Teacher Workday
May 28	Early Dismissal
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday
June 22	Last Day of School

\* Schools are open.

+ Report cards are provided to parents at the end of each grading period and at the end of the school year.

# Date subject to change if more than three school days are lost because of inclement weather.

Days Missed	Makeup Days
1	No make-up required
2	No make-up required
3	No make-up required
4	February 15
5	April 12
6	Will not be made up
7	June 23
8	Will not be made up
9	June 24
10	Will not be made up

# STAFF DIRECTORY

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# INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN

Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to close schools for the entire day, to open schools late, or to close early. The procedures used in school closings are detailed below. Keep this information in a convenient location for future reference.

Parents are urged to make arrangements now for the care of their children when schedule changes are made (and to provide for the rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or other circumstances). Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home.

Decisions on schedule changes are made after careful study of the best information available from many sources including weather services, the highway department, the police, and FCPS transportation staff members who are out checking the roads. While no sources dealing with weather predictions can be infallible, decisions are made with one overriding consideration—the safety of the students who ride buses or walk to school each day.

**FCPS has several schedules set up to deal with inclement weather; these are put into effect when conditions threaten the safety of children who are walking or riding school buses to schools. These schedules are:**

**(1) Keep schools closed. (2) Open two hours late. (3) Close two hours early.**

In every case of a schedule change, tune in to cable Channel 21, check [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu), or call the FCPS hot line at 800-839-FCPS (3277). To receive this information via e-mail, sign up for the *FCPS Keep in Touch* e-mail notification system. The news will also be carried by radio and television stations, which are notified as soon as a decision is made. Do not phone the school or one of the stations for this information.

**When the decision is made that schools will be closed all day or will open two hours late, the announcement will be made by 5:30 a.m.**

**When schools are closed for the day, the following will apply:**

- Extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices, field trips, adult and community education classes, and recreation programs in schools and on school grounds are canceled.
- School-age child care (SACC) centers are closed.

**When schools are opened two hours late, the following will apply:**

- If it is on Monday, elementary schools (which usually close early on Mondays) will close at their usual Tuesday-through-Friday time.
- Morning preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes are canceled. Full-day preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes start two hours later than the regular schedule. Afternoon preschool (special education) starts on the regular schedule.
- Morning field trips are canceled.
- School-age child care (SACC) centers will be open by 8:00 a.m. when possible.

- Adult and community education classes will start on time.

**When schools are closed two hours early due to worsening weather conditions during the day, the following will apply:**

- The announcement will be made by 10:30 a.m.
- Elementary schools will close two hours earlier than the usual Tuesday-through-Friday time.
- Morning preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) programs are dismissed at approximately 11 a.m. Full-day preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes are dismissed two hours earlier than the regular schedule. Afternoon preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes are canceled.
- Extended day care and school-age child care (SACC) centers will stay open until children are picked up.
- Extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices, field trips, adult and community education classes, and recreation programs in schools and on school grounds are canceled.

## **SCHOOL HOURS**

**Office**

Monday through Friday.....8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Grades K through 6**

Monday.....9:15 a.m. to 1:25 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday.....9:15 a.m. to 3:55 p.m.

**Morning Preschool**

Monday.....9:15 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.

Tuesday through Friday.....9:15 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.

**Afternoon Preschool**

Monday.....11:05 a.m. to 1:25 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday.....12:25 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

**FECEP**

Monday.....9:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday.....9:15 a.m. to 3:55 p.m.

## **ENROLLMENT**

To be enrolled in a Fairfax County Public School, a child must reside in Fairfax County with his/her parent(s) or legal guardian. A tuition fee is charged to non-residents. Students may enroll at any time during the year. Student Registration (703-876-5219) offers assistance to foreign students in enrollment procedures.

A child must be five years old by September 30 of the current school year to be eligible for kindergarten. Prior to entering school, proof of a child’s birth and evidence of place of residence are required. In addition, state health laws require a student to receive a medical examination within one calendar year prior to entering school. Evidence of immunization include rubeola (measles), rubella (German measles), diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, poliomyelitis, mumps, and MMR “booster”. Forms to report physical examinations and immunizations are available online at <http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/DIT/forms/mch213.pdf> or in the school office or.

# STUDENT ARRIVAL

**STUDENTS SHOULD NOT ARRIVE AT SCHOOL BEFORE 9:00AM.** Parents should make sure that they have made arrangements for before-school care as there is no supervision for students who arrive before 9:00AM. Students who arrive between 9:00 and 9:05AM will be supervised in the lobby and then sent to their classrooms at 9:05AM by the adult on duty. Parents of students who arrive at school too early will be contacted and requested to return to school to pick their students up.

# STUDENT DISMISSAL

All students are dismissed through the main entrance of the school. **Children are expected to go home immediately upon dismissal unless parents have notified the school in writing that other arrangements have been made.** One note is sufficient for a regularly scheduled activity or regular childcare. Should your child plan to go home with another child on a given day, a note is needed from both households.

If for any reason a child is to be detained after dismissal, a parent will be notified by the teacher prior to dismissal to make certain that there is agreement and that safe transportation home from school is assured.

# RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER HOURS

Students may return to the building for **emergency reasons only** after regularly scheduled school hours. If this becomes necessary, please check in at the office for assistance. The office closes at 4:30PM, and the front door is locked at that time.

**Forgotten books or assignments are not considered emergencies.** Please assist us in helping your child learn to be a responsible student.

# ABSENCES OR TARDINESS

Regular attendance is necessary for maximum school achievement. In order to assist in developing desirable behavior patterns for students, as well as maximizing their classroom learning, Fairfax County Public Schools requires that students be punctual and regular in school attendance. **Please call the school attendance line at 703-506-7878 before 9:00AM to inform the school when your child will be absent or tardy.** For your convenience, messages may be left on the attendance line at any time. An automated attendance callout system will contact parents who have not notified the school each day regarding a student's absence. Notes must be sent explaining absences or reasons for tardiness upon return to school.

# RELEASE OF STUDENTS

If a student must leave school after the school day has started, please send a note to inform the teacher. A staff member will go and get the student when the parent arrives. When picking up your child, please come to the office to call for him/her; do not go directly to the classroom. **All**

**students must be signed out through the office.** The school will not release a student to anyone except a parent, guardian, or other person listed on the “Emergency Care Information” form unless there is a note of permission signed by the parent.

Students may be released to either parent unless the school has been provided with a court order forbidding custody to a named parent.

If you wish to arrange for another person to pick up your child in the event of illness, please indicate that on the “Emergency Care Information” form.

## MOVING

Please inform the school in advance if you will be moving to another school area. This will ensure that a transfer form and the Progress Report will be ready on the day that the student leaves Freedom Hill.

## VISITORS-MESSAGES-TELEPHONES

In order to ensure safety and security and to protect instructional time, interruptions to classrooms are kept to a minimum. Therefore, any non-school personnel entering the building for any reason **must report** to the school office where they will sign in and be issued a visitors’ badge. Parents are welcome to visit the classroom but should make prior arrangements with the teacher for a time that will not interfere with instruction. **Younger children, friends, or children from other school are not permitted to visit classrooms.**

Forgotten items will be forwarded to students by the school staff when necessary. The office will also pass along emergency phone messages. Please help your child to develop a routine of placing things which need to be brought to school in a designated place in order that homework, books, lunches, etc. will not be left at home.

Students may make phone calls during the day only in cases of emergency. In the event of illness, the clinic aide or other office personnel will call parents or others listed on the “Emergency Care Information” form. **In addition, students may be in possession of cell phones, but they must be turned off and out of sight during the school day.**

## BUS RIDERS

Bus transportation is provided for those students who live more than one mile from school or who live where walking would be unsafe. **All school bus riders are required to observe rules of safety and good citizenship at all times at the bus stops and on the buses.** This behavior should be dictated by the student’s respect for the bus driver, the school patrols, other students, and for the privilege of riding the bus.

An information brochure, “*Regulation for Pupils Riding Buses,*” is given to each student at the beginning of each school year or at the time of registration. Parents are required to review the information, co-sign the forms with their child, and return the original to the school. School Board policy stipulates that bus transportation may be denied to any child whose behavior does not comply with the regulations. When bus transportation is denied, it becomes the parent’s responsibility to provide transportation to and from the school.

# CAR RIDERS

Students who are driven to school in private cars should be released at the “**Kiss n Ride**” sign at the south end of the building so that students do not have to cross the parking lot/driveway. Drivers should enter the parking lot at the second entrance (near the park) and circle around to the drop-off area. Students should be picked up after school at the same location.

**PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE BUS LOOP IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL AT ANY TIME.** Buses pick up and drop off students at various times during the day.

# WALKERS

Only those students living in designated walker areas should walk to school. For safety purposes, students should always walk in pairs or as a group. Appropriate behavior is expected.

# BICYCLES

Students are not permitted to ride bicycles to school due to the high volume of traffic in the Freedom Hill attendance area.

# STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND DRESS

Students, school staff, and parents share the responsibility for maintaining a safe and healthy school environment. “*Students’ Responsibilities and Rights*,” adopted by the Fairfax County School Board and outlined in Regulation 2601.23P, is distributed to each child in grades K-6. One of the most important lessons that education teaches is responsibility. While it does not appear as a subject in the curriculum, it underlies the whole educational structure. It is the training that develops self-control, character, and organizational skills and is the key to appropriate conduct and respect for others.

Acts of misconduct will be dealt with through student-teacher discussions. If there is no improvement, then a conference may be held between the parent, child, and teacher. Parents are expected to assume responsibility for correcting their child’s misconduct after being informed by the school. When parental action fails to correct a child’s misconduct, other measures may be taken by the school, such as holding an administrative conference or providing an alternative educational arrangement. Fighting, physical abuse, verbal abuse, and sexual harassment will not be tolerated and can result in suspension of the students involved.

Student dress is dictated only as it relates to the atmosphere which affects learning and the development of attitudes. It has been observed that students demonstrate more appropriate behavior and attend to schoolwork more diligently when they are neatly dressed. Caps or hats are not to be worn inside of the building. Any form of clothing advertising alcoholic beverages, illegal substances, or those with obscene or questionable printing **will not** be permitted. Parents and teachers working together can help children learn to dress appropriately. See Chapter 1, Section D of the “*Students’ Responsibilities and Rights*” booklet for FCPS Dress Code Policy.

Students should bring or wear tennis shoes or sneakers on days when they have physical education to allow for a safe P.E. program. Students are prohibited from wearing shoes that contain wheels in the heel, better known as Heeleys. These shoes when used in school buildings can cause

injury to oneself, other students, and staff when the wearer loses control and slides into other individuals. These shoes were designed to be used outside in an area where children have lots of room to skate and with the use of a helmet.

## POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT (PBS)

PBS is a school-wide behavior management plan. Students can receive eagle stickers from any Freedom Hill ES faculty/staff member as a reward for following the three R's (Respect Yourself, Respect Others, Respect Property).

## MONEY AND ARTICLES BROUGHT TO SCHOOL

When money is sent to school, please seal it in an envelope labeled with the student's name. Students are discouraged from bringing extra money to school.

Items such as toys and sports equipment should not be brought to school without permission of the student's teacher to ensure that they are of interest and value to the class. Students are discouraged from bringing valuable items for which the school will not assume liability.

**Items that create a danger, such as firecrackers, knives, etc., are strictly forbidden to be brought to school or transported on a school bus.**

## LOST AND FOUND

Unidentified clothing, lunch boxes, etc. found in school are placed in the "Lost and Found" located near the gym. Items such as jewelry and eyeglasses are kept in the office. **Please label all articles of clothing and instructional materials with the child's first and last names.**

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are permitted where the experience is in support of and enhances the instructional program. Before a student is permitted to take a field trip, a parent must complete, sign, and return a permission form. All students must also have on file a signed "Standards of Conduct for Pupils Riding School Buses" form.

Parent volunteers who act as chaperons on field trips must sign the Volunteer Log in the office prior to the trip to ensure liability coverage in case of an accident. Only designated **adult** chaperones may accompany classes on field trips.

In case of delayed openings, all field trips are cancelled.

## EMERGENCY CARE INFORMATION

Each student is required to have a completed "Emergency Care Information" form on file. This document summarizes important information that may be needed in the event of an emergency. It is used primarily to contact the parent or family representative when illness or an accident occurs.

When a child becomes ill, the school always attempts to locate and inform a parent first. However, there are times when the parent cannot be reached. Therefore, **it is important that the emergency contact be someone other than the parent.** Please list on the “Emergency Care Information” form the phone numbers of neighbors or other responsible adults who will know where you can be reached when your child feels ill or who can come to the school to pick up your child for you. Also, please list any allergies or serious medical problems and any special arrangements you may have for another person who picks up your child on a regular basis.

**PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY OF ANY CHANGE IN ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBERS, EMERGENCY CONTACT(S), OR MEDICAL CONDITION THAT MAY OCCUR DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.**

## **CLINIC**

Freedom Hill has a clinic aide assigned from the Fairfax County Health Department. Clinic services include vision and hearing screening for kindergarteners, third graders, and students new to Fairfax County as well as height and weight checks for FECEP students. Parents are notified in writing of any deficiencies discovered during a screening. Clinic services in no way take the place of routine check-ups performed by physicians.

Any child not feeling well at school is escorted to the clinic. If a child has no fever or obvious cause for discomfort, it is suggested that the child rest in the clinic for a short while. When a child has a fever or does not improve with rest, the parent or individual specified on the “Emergency Care Information” form is called to pick up the child from school. A sick child will not be allowed to take the school bus home.

## **MEDICATION**

State law prohibits the school from administering any medication to a child without a written statement of informed consent signed by the child’s parent/guardian. Except for over-the-counter medication to be administered for 3 days or for an antibiotic to be administered for less than 10 days, a physician’s signature is also required. All medication must be delivered to the school by the parent and must be in its original container.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL TO COMPLETE THE NECESSARY “MEDICATION AUTHORIZATION” FORM AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR ONLINE AT <http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/forms/se63.pdf>.**

## **MEDICAL AND DENTAL INSURANCE**

Both medical and dental group insurance are available to all students. Applications and information explaining the programs are distributed at the beginning of each year. This insurance is available through independent carriers, not Fairfax County Public Schools, and is offered as a service to families. Please read the brochures carefully and seriously consider purchasing the insurance. Premiums for both the dental and medical insurance are to be sent directly to the insurance companies. Please do not return them to school.

# BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

A nutritious breakfast is offered to students. The cost is \$1.50 for students who wish to participate. Adults may purchase breakfast for \$1.95.

Students may choose to buy lunch or bring a lunch from home. Freedom Hill provides a daily lunch under the National School Lunch Program. Milk is served with each lunch or may be purchased separately. A la carte items are also available daily. Monthly menus will be sent home every month listing both breakfast and lunch daily menu choices.

The price of lunch, including milk, is \$2.65 for students and \$3.65 for adults. Milk purchased separately is \$.60. Lunch tickets (computerized card) may be purchased in the cafeteria any morning for those wishing to purchase five or more lunches at \$2.65 each. Checks for lunch tickets should be made out to “*Freedom Hill Food Services*.”

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers myLunchMoney.com, an online prepayment service, to its students and employees to pay for school breakfasts and lunches. The service enables families and employees to pay for meals with a credit or debit card, check balances, and add funds to their accounts via computer, phone, or fax. Parents and employees can visit [www.myLunchMoney.com](http://www.myLunchMoney.com) to set up an account by using a student identification number—which can be found on a report card—or, in the case of an employee, the employee number. Credit or debit card information is entered to add funds to the account. Throughout the school year, accounts can be managed and funds can be added electronically or via phone. Personal and payment information is protected by advanced Internet security. A \$1.95 fee applies each time the customer charges funds to their credit/debit card through the MyLunchMoney.com website. FCPS meals can still be purchased with cash or personal checks.

Lunches may not be charged. If a child does not have a lunch, lunch money, or sufficient credit on his/her lunch card, he/she is offered breakfast cereal and milk. Students may not bring carbonated drinks to school. Juices and non-carbonated fruit drinks may be brought in bags and boxes only. **NO GLASS CONTAINERS MAY BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL.**

To ensure that the nutritional needs of students are met, the Federal Government provides assistance in the form of free or reduced breakfast/lunch prices. Applications are sent home at the beginning of the school year and are available at any time from the school office. Applications must be sent to the address shown on the application form.

## STANDARDS OF CONDUCT IN THE CAFETERIA

1. Students will clean their areas before dismissal.
2. Students will use indoor voices at all times.
3. Students will remain seated at all times.
4. Students will be polite and respectful to everyone.

## TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES

Students are provided the use of textbooks without charge. However, they are expected to take care of their books by covering them when necessary, handling them properly, and by not marking in them. It may be necessary to require payment for books that are lost or damaged through negligence or abuse.

Supply lists are provided at the beginning of the school year and posted on the Freedom Hill website. Periodically, teachers may ask parents to replenish necessary supplies.

## **SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The Pilling Media Center is an excellent learning resource area and an important component of the instructional program. This library has a wide variety of books to lend to students. Children are responsible for the proper care and prompt return of books borrowed from the library. We request that parents reinforce responsible library use with their children. As with textual materials, lost and/or damaged library books are the responsibility of the student.

## **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL**

Pre-printed Freedom Hill work envelopes (“Weekly Folders”) are sent home on a weekly basis. Work folders will contain samples of your child’s work and may contain other communication from the teacher, school, or PTA. Please review the contents of the envelope upon receipt. The signed envelope/folder should be returned to the teacher on the next school day.

A school newsletter, “*Hill Highlights*,” is published every other week and sent home with each student. The newsletter contains information about school, PTA, and community events, as well as other timely items of interest. In addition, teachers may communicate to parents through periodic class newsletters, phone calls, and/or parent conferences.

Progress Reports are issued four times each year: at the end of each of the first three quarters and at the end of the school year. The purpose of the Progress Report is to help the parent and child identify the student’s strengths and areas of needed improvement and to help the teacher assess each student and plan accordingly. A conference to discuss each child’s progress is scheduled during the first reporting period.

Interim Reports are issued the second, third, and fourth quarters for students in grades 1-6.

Parents are urged to contact the school promptly should they have questions or concerns regarding school procedures or their child(ren)’s progress. It is vital that families review information from school and promptly return all information requested from parents/guardians.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework serves to supplement, reinforce, and/or extend the work done in school. Homework encourages growth in responsibility, the development of efficient work habits, and opportunities for increasing self-direction and effective use of time. Responsibility for homework in the elementary school should increase gradually from grades 1 to 6. The amount and type of homework will be determined by the teacher after considering the level and maturity of the child. There should be a cooperative effort on the part of teachers and parents to hold children responsible for completing assignments. To assist in this effort, “Assignment” notebooks are provided to each student in grades 2-6. These notebooks are designed to help students keep track of their assignments and to develop organizational skills and responsibility.

# **CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS**

Each child is assigned to a specific classroom/teacher. In addition, other teachers will also provide instruction to the student. On occasion, it is necessary for a placement to be adjusted due to enrollment changes or other issues that may have an impact on the instructional program. If your child has an assignment change, please help him/her make the adjustment by supporting the change. We will also talk with your child to help make any transfer as comfortable as possible.

# **INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

Standards of Learning (SOL) adopted by the State Board of Education define the basic elementary program in Virginia. The academic program includes instruction in art, health, language arts, mathematics, music, physical education, science, and social studies.

The curriculum of the Fairfax County Public Schools is the PROGRAM OF STUDIES. Identified, basic objectives for kindergarten through grade six provide the foundation or core of the elementary curriculum. Objectives are placed at the grade level in which most students achieve them. The curriculum provides for planning, monitoring, and evaluating of student progress on a continuous basis.

Textual materials, supplies, and equipment, such as the computer, are tools for implementing the curriculum. Textbooks used at Freedom Hill have been selected from the Fairfax County approved list and are coordinated with the Program of Studies and the Standards of Learning. Copies of the Program of Studies are available for review at the school and at all public libraries.

# **FAMILY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM (FECEP)**

FECEP (formerly Headstart) is an early childhood development program for three and four year old children whose eligibility for the program is based on family income. The program involves parents and community professionals working with staff to provide comprehensive services to address students' emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs.

# **PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**

The Preschool program is a half-day special education early childhood program for two, three, and four year old children with special needs. The program also includes a home component in which the teachers visit the home to work with students and their families.

# **INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY (SEVERE) PROGRAM**

The ID/IDS program is a special education program for elementary aged children with moderate to severe disabilities. Programs emphasizing life experiences are designed to meet students' individual needs. Freedom Hill has both primary and upper elementary level classrooms.

## **SACC**

A School-Aged Child Care (SACC) program is available for children attending Freedom Hill School. This service is a Fairfax County Office for Children program which provides professional child care for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Monthly fees are based on family income. The program is intended to accommodate families where all adults in the home are working, students, or unable to care for children due to medical reasons. Brochures detailing the program and registration procedures are available from the Office for Children at 703-449-8989. The SACC office at Freedom Hill can be reached by calling 703-506-7860.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS**

The ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR assists students, teachers, and parents in effectively meeting students' academic, emotional, and social needs in the school setting.

SPECIAL RESOURCE TEACHERS work with students identified as needing special assistance with speech and language, hearing, vision, emotional, or physical disabilities.

A school-based ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAM (program for identified students in grades 3-6) is available at each Fairfax County elementary school. A classroom program, based on the concept that giftedness is an emerging characteristic, is provided to all children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The program has two components: student response lessons and differentiated services in kindergarten through third grade and process lessons in grades 4-6. In addition, Fairfax County offers a Gifted Center Program for qualified students in grades 3-6.

Special Education services are available to students (K-6) who are found eligible through the local screening process. Students may qualify for these services after having been referred by an educational staff member or parent and having been evaluated and found eligible for the program. Parents are involved in the referral, evaluation, and placement decisions at all times. Services provide supports in a variety of general and special education settings within the base school.

A SCHOOL READING SPECIALIST is a full time member of the Freedom Hill staff. This teacher coordinates the school language arts program and provides supplemental assistance to students as needed.

Freedom Hill has teachers of ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) who provide language arts instruction for student working to increase their English proficiency.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION is available for upper grade students by itinerant instructors. Weekly string instruction is available to fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students. Weekly band instruction is available to fifth and sixth grade students. Students must furnish their own instruments.

CHORUS is mandatory for students in fifth and sixth grades.

## **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The STUDENT COUNCIL ASSOCIATION (SCA) provides students with experiences to participate in self-government. SCA officers, board members, and room representatives are elected yearly and plan activities during the year to develop good citizens in the school.

Freedom Hill's SAFETY PATROL force is composed of fifth and sixth grade students. These students model behavior and exercise certain responsibilities to ensure the safety of students at street crossings, on the buses, and in the halls of the building. Participation helps to develop leadership skills and encourages responsible behavior.

## **PARENT AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

The Freedom Hill PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA) is a member of the local, state, and National Parent Teacher Association. The Executive Board is composed of the PTA officers, committee chairpersons, school administrators, and faculty representatives. Various committees direct the activities of the PTA and rely on extensive parent support for successful school wide programs.

The VOLUNTEER PROGRAM relies on adults from the Freedom Hill community who are willing to help in the school or at home. Volunteers play a vital role at Freedom Hill in helping improve instruction, enrich the curriculum, and increase school/community relations. All volunteers are required to submit a negative TB test to the school office.

Freedom Hill has a SCHOOL-BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus (Feld Entertainment, Inc.), Barnes & Noble of Tysons Corner, and Wachovia Bank.

## **STATEMENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

Fairfax County Public Schools is committed to equal opportunity and equal access for all students.

No student, employee, or applicant for employment in the Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, or handicapping condition be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any education program or activity.

**KISS AND RIDE MAP** — Please use the second entrance to the parking lot and follow the traffic circle (indicated with arrows below).

