



# FSD145

Freeport School District

January 29, 2021

Dear FSD 145 Staff and Families,

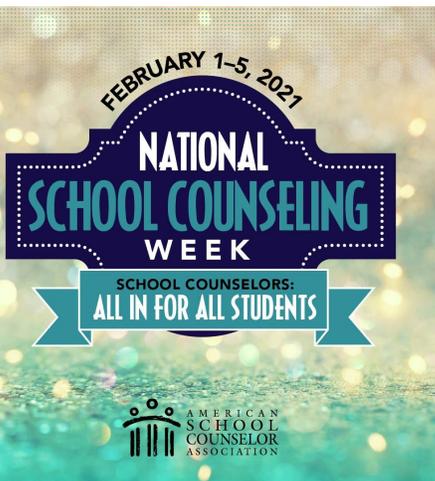


This week has been filled with mixed emotions for FSD. We notified you on Monday that our beloved School Board President, Mr. George McCarty, passed away on Sunday afternoon. George exemplified a true passion and love for our District in his role as board member and in his service as vice president and most recently president, since September. He kept in the forefront what was best for both staff and students. This is truly a great loss for our District and for the Freeport Community. Please continue to keep George's family in your thoughts and prayers. You can read more about [George's life and legacy](#) here. A visitation will take place on Sunday from 1-4 PM at Burke Tubbs Funeral Home in Freeport. There will be an additional visitation from 11:00 AM until the funeral service begins at noon on Monday, at Marintown Community Church in Browntown, WI.

Our District Institute took place on Wednesday, with more than 400 participants engaging in a full day of professional learning. In the opening session I paid tribute to George sharing with our staff that he firmly believed in the possibilities of FSD and would have loved participating in our virtual learning. We were all reminded of the passion and love that George had for staff and for all of our students. Keeping in mind his desire to see all of our students succeed and receive the best education possible, we began our day of learning. During our keynote session, a moment of silence was observed in George's honor. We will take time to pay our tribute to George and honor his legacy at the Feb. 2 board meeting.

### **National School Counselors Week**

National School Counseling Week 2021 (#NSCW21), will be celebrated from Feb. 1-5, 2021, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by American School Counselor Association, highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. **THANK YOU** to our own school counselors for all that you do to help our students succeed! You are valued and appreciated and we honor you during this special week. You make us **#pretzelproud!**



### **District Institute Day**

On January 27, over 400 faculty, staff, and board members participated in a full day of professional learning with a kick-off session on equity and growth mindset by our own Dr. Shalonda Randle (Interim Asst. Supt of Equity). The keynote address for our session was given by IASA's Dr. Courtney Orzel. Faculty and staff had over three-dozen sessions to choose from related to instructional technology, core curriculum, remote learning, support services, and staff mental health and wellness. Teachers across the district have already begun to apply newly learned strategies in their classrooms. The Curriculum & Instruction team would like to thank everyone who participated and a special thank you to the 20+ members of the FSD145 family who shared their expertise by presenting at the January Institute Day.

### **Athletics Update**

The IHSA recently announced plans for abbreviated high school seasons that will run through the middle of June. Student athletes need to have sports physicals on file in order to begin practice and must be academically eligible to compete. Our District is committed to safe return to play which includes following all of the suggested safety protocols at all times including restrictions on numbers of participants and spectators based on venue and phase protocols. More detailed information will be provided as our conference, administrators and coaches work together to get us back on the playing field as safely as possible. **GO PRETZELS!**

### **Black History Month**

Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States, when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week". The first celebration of Black History Month took place at Kent State from January 2 to February 28, 1970. Six years later, Black History Month was celebrated all across the country in educational institutions, centers of Black culture and community centers, both great and small. President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month, during the celebration of the United States Bicentennial. He urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Throughout the month of February, Freeport SD145 will incorporate various lessons and other activities to engage students in discussions around the contributions of Past and Present African-Americans and their contributions in American History.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Remote Learning By Choice (RLBC)**

**Families who wish to change their selection to or from RLBC should follow the processes below**

- **In-person to Remote-** Sign up using the [Remote Learning by Choice](#) form.
- **Remote to In-Person-** Contact the ETC at 815-232-0580 or your student's school to request a return to in-person. Return dates are offered every two weeks for the remainder of the school year. Placement depends on openings that take into consideration building capacity, staff availability and our ability to maintain social distancing in classrooms. Elementary students may be offered a spot in a different school building if their home school capacity has been met. This is a temporary solution.

The next deadline to request a return to in-person placement is **02/09/21**. Requests received by this date will begin in-person instruction on **02/16/21**, if capacity in buildings/classrooms allow.

### **Physical & Immunization Requirements**

If your student is switching from Remote Learning by Choice to In-Person/Hybrid the required physical examination and immunizations must be on file. [Please click here to see for more information on what students require physical exams/immunizations.](#)

## **WEEKLY REMINDERS**

### **IMPORTANT - Notification of Emergency Closings**

In the event schools must be closed due to extreme weather conditions, notification will be sent to families by phone call and text message. **You may still opt in to receive text messages from us by texting Y to 67587.** Notification is also sent to local radio and news stations, posted on our social media sites (Facebook, Twitter), and our website [www.fsd145.org](http://www.fsd145.org). In the event that we have to close school due to inclement weather, all students will follow the full remote learning schedule. The [Remote Learning Quick Guide](#) is available on our website.

### **COVID Vaccination & Positivity Rate Updates from the Stephenson County Health Department**

This week additional staff members received the first vaccination. We will continue to partner with SCHD to provide this opportunity to our staff. The second dose is scheduled to be administered sometime in February. On this past Monday, Region 1 was moved to [Phase 4](#). The overall positivity rate is 6.5% in Stephenson County as of Jan. 26 and 5.7% in Region 1.

As of 01/29/2021, SCHD has notified us that there are 7 active students (2 new) and 5 active staff cases in FSD. Information regarding our [COVID statistics](#) can be viewed on our website.

### **Grab-N-Go & Meal Delivery & Pick-up**

For families signed up for **bus delivery** you will receive a delivery tomorrow, January 30th. Also, tomorrow is the next pick-up date at **Carl Sandburg School** from 10 am - Noon, for Group A / Group B blended students and any remote choice learners who are not on the bus delivery route.

### **Upcoming Important Dates:**

- President's Day Holiday - Monday, February 15, 2021 - District Closed
- 3 Hour School Improvement Day - Wednesday, February 24, 2021 - All students attend remotely
- Spring Break - March 22-26, 2021

### **Feedback & Questions**

If you have missed our weekly communications to families, you can read them here. [Weekly & Special Community Communications](#). Please call your student's schools with any questions or comments.

Our staff is encouraged, energized and empowered from our professional development, and this will drive our ongoing work with our students. We truly believe that every day of teaching and learning is better and that the best is YET to come. Have a wonderful weekend and know that we appreciate you for your ongoing support.

With gratitude,

*Dr. Anna Alvarado*

Superintendent of Schools