



March 05, 2021

Dear FSD 145 Staff and Families,

HAPPY FRIDAY! Spring is definitely in the air! We are excited that many extracurricular sports activities have resumed with modified seasons, (including some of the fall/winter sports) for our upper grade levels. For our seniors, it's their last opportunity to compete as proud Pretzels. We wish all of our teams the best of luck. GO PRETZELS! 🍷❤️

Antigen Testing for COVID

There is some exciting news as we navigate our COVID mitigation measures in the district. The Stephenson County Health Department has offered to provide the district with test kits at no cost to the district in order to monitor high risk sports and activities in our schools. For example, students who participate in football, basketball or Showtime could be tested weekly to ensure they are COVID negative allowing them to participate in the activity without interruption. Health and safety protocols would remain in place which include social distancing and masks.

Our nursing staff worked on the procedures and rationales for students who should be tested. Parents, or students, if they are 18 years old or older, must sign consent to allow the voluntary testing to occur. The consent form is linked below.

In addition, the health department and district generated a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to allow this additional service for students to occur in our high school initially and other buildings as needed. Our district nurses have been trained to provide the testing and will begin services next week.

Links to the protocol: [COVID Screen Protocol](#) and the consent form: [COVID Antigen Consent Form](#)
If you have questions, please reach out to Jack Code, Executive Director of Pupil Personnel Services, at 815.232.0300 or via email: jack.code@fsd145.org

All-State Music Conference

Through the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA), students can audition to perform in an ILMEA ensemble (band, chorus, orchestra, jazz band or vocal jazz ensemble) within their geographic district. Based on that audition, students may be invited to participate in the annual Illinois All-State Music Conference. **Congratulations to FHS Senior, Hallie Atz (band), and Junior, Noah Redmore (choir) for being selected to the All-State Music Conference.** Both students were recognized at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting. FSD is extremely proud of you both.

Women's History Month

Each year March is designated Women's History Month by Presidential proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history. It started as Women's History Week, as first declared by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. Congress declared March 1987 as the first official Women's History Month. Visit www.WomensHistoryMonth.gov to learn more about the vital contribution of women to our Nation's history.

National School Social Work Week



Each year during the first full week of March the National School Social Work Association celebrates School Social Workers. “**Beacon of Hope: School Social Workers – Lighting the Way**” is the theme for 2021. In their role, School Social Workers are able to light the way, emphasizing the whole child, collaborating with other professionals, linking students and families with needed services, and advocating for their profession. On behalf of our School Board, and all of our staff I extend our thanks and appreciation to our district Social Workers and the amazing work that they do each day for our students.

Our FSD 145 Social Workers:

Donna Reel	Austyn Cardoso
Mercedes Johnson-Ishmon	Tarica Jackson
Monica Reed	William Bounthong
Amanda Perkins	Jeanette Diddens
Amy Larson	Kyli Marshall

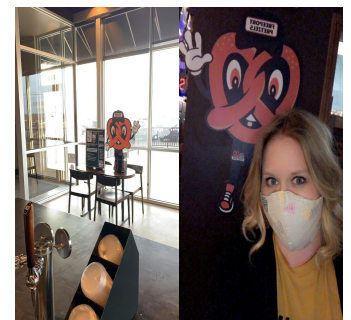
Looking Good in the Neighborhood



Freeport High School has new locker rooms, windows and Pretzel rails!!! These capital improvement projects were a passion for our former Board President, the late Mr. George McCarty and he was able to see this work come to fruition. Please enjoy this [virtual tour!](#)

"Where is Mr. Twister?"

Are you ready for a little fun and to build up our Pretzel Pride? There will be seven Mr. Twister cut outs placed around town at local businesses, now through the end of the school year. If you find Mr. Twister, take a selfie and post it on the [Pretzel Fans Club FB page](#). Remember to say where you took the photo. The locations will change, so keep your eyes open. Every month the Fan Club will have a drawing from the photos posted and those picked will win a gift certificate to a local business that had Mr. Twister visiting them! Let's have some fun FSD Community! **Freeport#pretzelpride#pretzelnation**



2021-2022 School Year Calendar

The [2021-2022 School Year Calendar](#) was approved by the Board of Education at their meeting on Tuesday, March 2. Please note that the SY21 calendar does not include information about remote learning days. We will continue to monitor guidelines from ISBE and make the appropriate adjustments as needed.

Summer School 2020 Dates

The dates for our Summer Learning program have been set. Further details will be communicated as they are finalized.

Grade Level	Dates	Location
1-6	06/21/21 - 07/29/21	Carl Sandburg School
7-8	06/21/21 - 07/29/21	Freeport Middle School
9-12	06/07/21 - 07/15/21	Freeport High School

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 **03/23/21**. Requests received by this date will begin in-person instruction on **04/06/21**, if capacity in buildings/classrooms allow.

FSD 145 Hiring Bus Drivers & Monitors, Secretary

FSD currently has openings for school bus drivers and monitors, as well as an Enrollment and Transportation secretary. Persons interested in joining our Transportation team can apply [online](#).

WEEKLY REMINDERS

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

The overall 7-day rolling positivity rate is 2.2% in Stephenson County as of Mar. 01, and 2.1% in Region 1. As of 03/04/2021, SCHD has notified us that there are 1 active student and 0 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, March 6. Also, tomorrow is the next pick-up date at **Carl Sandburg School (lower level parking lot, door O)** 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:

- Spring Break - March 22-26, 2021
- Special Holidays (Easter Weekend) - Friday, April 2, and Monday April 5, 2021

Feedback & Questions

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

I hope that better weather allows you to engage in fun, family activities, while you continue to stay safe. We have come so far on this journey that we began almost one year ago. Let's continue to protect ourselves and our families. Again, we appreciate you. Have a super weekend!

With gratitude,

Dr. Anna Alvarado

Superintendent of Schools