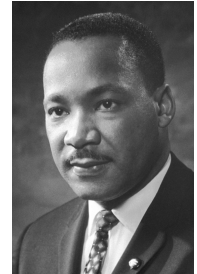


January 13, 2023

Hello FSD Parents/Guardians & Staff,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we look forward to a 3-day weekend I am reminded to reflect on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. No figure, then or now, is more closely identified with the struggle for civil rights than Dr. King. Through his legacy, the spirit of social justice lives in the ongoing pursuit of opportunity for all. Dr. King's impact is still today, far-reaching and paramount in the realm of social justice and how much he valued education and its purpose in providing opportunities for citizens and communities to improve lives.



*"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.*

The weather has certainly been on our side, but we know that winter in the Midwest is far from being over. Please be reminded of our procedures for inclement weather provided [here](#). Notification to families is a top priority and will be communicated as soon as decisions are made by phone call, email, local news and radio, as well as social media.

Next Friday is the last day of the first semester of the 2022-23 school year. We look forward to a strong finish to the semester and an equally strong second semester. As we approach the midpoint of the school year, I would like to continue to highlight the importance of student attendance. We will be sharing the attendance year to date data in the next superintendent newsletter.

We value the school-family partnership we share with you. Know that a strong partnership is key to enhancing the academic experience of our students. Thank you for all that you do for them.



Early Childhood Model Classroom

The Freeport Community is invited to an open house to view the completion of the Early Childhood Model Room. The Open House will take place on February 7th from 5:30-6:30 at Blackhawk Elementary School. Please join Dr. Sandra Duncan (our consultant) along with the early childhood staff for a tour of the newly designed model classroom at Blackhawk School and learn how the built environment positively impacts young children's growth and development, emotional wellness, and future academic success!

Competitive Dance Brings Home 1st Place Trophies

The FHS Competitive Dance team brought home two 1st place trophies at the Maine East Invite last week. They placed 1st in lyrical/contemporary and 1st in IHSA 1A.

AND....(🥁drum🥁roll🥁) Last night, they danced their way to the NIC-10 CHAMPIONSHIP! Congratulations to this talented group of dancers and their coaching staff led by head coach Tara Hersey and assistant coaches Melanie Brown and Rachel Carlson. ❤️🥰❤️



New IL Laws 2023



More than 180 new laws took effect on January 1, 2023, covering a range of issues that affect Illinoisans. At least 19 of the new laws directly impact schools, students, staffers and education as a whole throughout the state. One that impacts us on a daily basis is **SB3793: Adds Penalties For Drivers Who Violate Laws in a School Driving Zone:** This bill adds community service as a penalty for failing to stop for a school bus that is "receiving or discharging pupils and has displayed visual signals," or for speeding in excess of 20 miles per hour or more in a school zone or while traveling on a roadway on public school property or where children pass to go to and from school. [Here's the full text of the bill.](#) A full listing of all the new laws can be found [here.](#)

Dallas Day

On Tuesday, January 17th, the Enrollment & Transportation Department will celebrate "Dallas Day" to show their appreciation for ETC Director Dallas Pieper. Her staff indicates that "she always goes the extra mile" and they appreciate all that she does. Way to go Dallas! I express my thanks to Dallas and her hardworking staff for all that they do. In the age of bus driver and monitor shortages, Dallas and her team continue to navigate the daily challenges in order to make sure our students arrive at school safely and on time.



~~Upcoming Events~~

The organizations & events listed below are not sponsored by or affiliated with FSD 145

The Freeport **Lions Club Scholarship/Grant Program** is now accepting applications. The requirements and application can be found [here.](#)

Highland Community College will sponsor a **Mini-Cougars Cheer Camp** on Friday, February 3rd for students grade K-8. [View the flier.](#)

A program honoring the life and legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** will be held at the Boys & Girls Club of Freeport & Stephenson County on Monday, January 16th beginning with music at 5:30 PM and the official opening of the program at 6:00 PM. [View the flier.](#)

REMINDERS

FSD Employment Opportunities

FSD has openings for the current school year. For more information on job openings and to apply [visit our website, fsd145.](#)

FSD has immediate openings for bus drivers, \$18 hr. & monitors, \$14 hr.

[\(click here for info.\)](#)

Care Solace

Care Solace is a complimentary and confidential care coordination service that can help you quickly find mental health or substance use treatment options matched to your needs regardless of circumstance. Call 888-515-0595. Support is available 24/7/365 in any language. Suicide hotline: 988, help is available 24/7.

Upcoming Notable Dates:

01/16/23 - MLK Day - FSD Closed

01/20/23 - First Semester Ends

02/17/23 - School Improvement Day (3-hour student attendance)

02/20/23 - Presidents Day - FSD Closed

As the end of the semester approaches we are busy preparing for Summer School/Learning and the 2023-2024 school year. Through the efforts of many staff members we are making impactful revisions to our strategic plan and will produce a new 3-Year Vision Plan that will continue to be a living and breathing blueprint that navigates us in the pursuit of excellence in education. Thank you again for all that you do to support FSD 145 and most importantly our students. We remain "All In for All Kids". Have a great 3-day weekend!

With Gratitude,

Dr. Anna Alvarado,

Superintendent of Schools

FSD Staff: Thank you for reading the Superintendent Communication. Click [here](#) to enter your name in this week's drawing. You must enter by 4:00 PM on Wednesday, Jan. 18.