



August 19, 2022

Dear FSD Staff and Parents/Guardians,

As our summer break quickly comes to an end, we look forward to welcoming students back on **Wednesday, August 24th**. It was a pleasure to welcome 35 new teachers into our Pretzel Family last Monday at the New Teacher Academy. We are grateful to our returning staff members and administrators who are making sure that school buildings are ready to welcome students next week. Our theme, *Finding our Way Back*, speaks to our commitment to celebrate the positive things that make our district unique and special. We also recognize the need for continuous improvement and growth throughout the coming school year and are enthusiastic about what the future holds for our students and community.

The start times for all schools are provided here:

DAILY SCHOOL SCHEDULES

Freeport High School & Freeport Middle School	07:30-02:30
Carl Sandburg	07:45-02:45
Jones-Farrar K-4	08:55-03:30
Jones-Farrar 5th and 6th grade students <i>(Sandburg schedule)</i>	07:45-02:45
Blackhawk and Center, Pre-K-4	09:00-03:35
AM Preschool	09:00 AM -11:30 AM
PM Preschool	01:05 PM - 03:35 PM
Empire & Lincoln-Douglas, Pre-K-4	09:15-03:50

AM Preschool	09:15 AM - 11:45 AM
PM Preschool	01:20 PM - 03:50 PM
Full Day Preschool	09:15 AM - 3:50 PM

FROM ENROLLMENT & TRANSPORTATION

Parents/Guardians you will receive a call on Sunday evening relaying information about your student's bus route. An additional call will be sent to you on Tuesday evening with that information.

As you may or may not know, there is a national School bus driver shortage. Freeport School District is experiencing that driver shortage along with many other districts in our region. We are currently hiring for both bus drivers and monitors, but we still have many vacancies. These vacancies might make it challenging to cover bus routes on certain days. We have developed and will deploy our contingency plan if we cannot cover bus routes due to driver absences. On days when we have to use the contingency plan, some bus routes will run late as we will cover the open bus route(s) as follows:

- Bus A- HS/MS bus route
- Bus A-Open HS/MS bus route (bus route will be 30-40 minutes late)
- Bus A-Elementary bus route (bus route will be 10-20 minutes late)
- Bus D-Open Elementary bus route (bus route will be 10-20 minutes late)

If we need to enter our contingency plan, we will notify affected routes as soon as possible to allow families to make arrangements. The afternoon plan, while similar, will be much more dependent on the bus route that needs to be covered. We will communicate with families about the expected delays to allow them to make alternate arrangements.

We sincerely hope we never have to engage our contingency plan, but we wanted families to be aware of the possibility. If you have questions or are interested in becoming a bus driver, please give the Enrollment and Transportation Center a call at, 815-232-0580.

First Day Exclusion

In an effort to ensure the health and safety of all students and to ensure compliance with state law and Illinois School Code, Freeport School District 145 has established "First Day Exclusion". Under [Board Policy 7:100](#), students will not be allowed in school if they don't have the required Illinois physical and current immunizations on file by the first day of school. Please visit our website to review the [examination/vaccination requirements by grade](#).

REMINDERS

FSD Employment Opportunities

FSD still has openings for the 2022-23 school year. For more information on job openings and to apply [visit our website. fsd145. \(flier\)](#)

Care Solace

Freeport School District 145 partnered with Care Solace to support the well-being of students, staff and their family members. 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. If you or a family member are looking for help with mental health or substance use and would like to use Care Solace to help you find a provider:

- Call 888-515-0595. Support is available 24/7/365 in any language.
- Visit www.caresolace.com/fsd145 and either search on your own OR click “Book Appointment” for assistance by video chat, email, or phone.

Upcoming Notable Dates:

August 19 - Fall Sports Kick-Off 4:30 at FHS (gate opens at 4 PM)

August 24 - First Day of School

September 5 - Labor Day, FSD CLOSED

Thank you for taking the time to read our first superintendent update for 2022-2023. We will continue to communicate bi-weekly throughout the school year. Of course, other important communications will be shared as needed. We are so excited to have you back and look forward to a great and productive school year!

With gratitude

Dr. Anna Alvarado,

Superintendent of Schools