

September 09, 2022

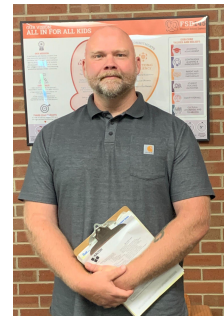
Dear FSD Staff and Parents/Guardians,

Thank you to the families who have attended Curriculum Night/Open House for schools that have already hosted them. I also want to thank our school administrators and staff for providing parents with information on expectations for this school year. We have seen an increase in the number of attendees and we will continue to work to ensure more families participate in this important school event moving forward. Blackhawk, Center, Jones Farrar and Lincoln Douglas Elementary are hosting their Curriculum Night/Open House in the coming weeks. I encourage families from these schools to please make an effort to attend. We value the importance of home-school partnership and it begins with knowing what the schools are doing to create a positive learning environment for their students.

### **New Director of Facilities & Grounds**

Although he has been on the job for a month now, we are excited to introduce Mr. Justin Pasch as our new Director of Facilities & Grounds. Justin brings 22 years of experience to his new role, all within FSD. He previously served as head custodian at FHS and moved to Buildings & Grounds in 2001. In his role as Director, Justin provides leadership and direction to the Custodial and Maintenance staff and oversees all facets of the Buildings and Grounds department for the district. Justin also serves as an Assistant Speech Team Coach and has served in that role since 2005.

**Congratulations Justin!**



### **Substitute Appreciation Week Sept. 5-9**



National Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week (Sub Week) is five days dedicated to the hundreds of thousands of wonderful individuals that fill in for permanent teachers every day in the United States. FSD appreciates the many educators who fill these roles (many of which are former/retired FSD educators) in the absence of our classroom teachers. During the era of teacher and staff shortage, now more than ever, substitutes play an important role in the continuity of educating our students.

**Thank you to our subs for all that you do. We appreciate you!**

## **Celebrating Latinx & Hispanic Heritage Month**

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually from September 15 - October 15, to acknowledge the history, culture, and contributions of Americans whose ancestry can be traced to over 20 countries in Latin America, including Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Hispanic Americans have been influential in every part of this nation's history, from arts to politics to business and innovation to the military. Throughout this month-long celebration we will incorporate teaching resources in the classroom that will highlight the contributions of Hispanic Americans and engage our students in learning more about this rich culture.



## **School Buses Equipped with WIFI**

Through ESSER Grant Funding, we have been able to equip our school buses and vans with WIFI for students to use on their commutes. Students' chromebooks will automatically connect to the WIFI on the buses allowing them to do school work while riding home or to and from sporting events. This enhancement allows students to use their commute time productively to read, study or complete homework.

## **FSD Hiring Fair**

FSD is sponsoring a Hiring Fair on Thursday, September 15th from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. There will be onsite interviews and a number of positions are available. [View the flier for additional details.](#)

## **Flight Squad vs. Pretz Squad Basketball Game**

Looking for something fun to do tonight? The Flight Squad will be here for a community event at the FHS gym with our special Freeport Pretzel Squad which includes staff from the whole district. You can purchase tickets ahead of time at Jones-Farrar or at the game. Doors open at 5:30. Game starts at 6 pm! \$5/person or \$20 for a family. ([flier](#))

## **Pork & Pigskins Championship - VOTE FOR FHS!**

The Pork & Pigskins Championship is about finding the best concession stand pork chop sandwich in the state, and there sure are some tasty contenders out there," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "We appreciate the Illinois Pork Producers Association's support in taking this gameday tradition to the next level." **ONLINE REGIONAL VOTING:** Vote online ([ihsa.org](http://ihsa.org)) for your favorite chop to determine the top four schools who will advance in each region to the Savory 16.

**Voting for this first round will begin on September 14 at 8AM and end on September 15 at 5PM.**



## ~Upcoming Events & Community Resources~

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

### **Family Connects IL**

FC IL provides services to new parents with support, information, and connections to family resources. Learn more about their services in Stephenson Co. by visiting their [website](#) and viewing this short [video](#).

### **Northwest IL Airshow**

The Air Show will be held on September 22, at Albertus Airport. Gates open at 10:30 AM and the show starts at 1:30 PM. Tickets are \$10 in advance at [nwilairshow.com](http://nwilairshow.com). Tickets the day of, at the gate will be \$15. Children 10 & under are free.

## **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](#).

### **Transportation Department Contingency Plan**

In response to national bus driver shortages, our Transportation Department has developed a contingency plan in the event that we are heavily impacted on a given day. We sincerely hope we never have to engage our contingency plan, but we want families to be aware of the possibility. This plan has been previously communicated and can be reviewed [here](#).

### **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](http://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:**

September 21 - School Improvement Day - 3-hour attendance for students

October 5 - District Institute - No school for students

October 10 - Columbus Day - FSD Closed

Our next communication will be on Friday, September 23rd. Thank you for all that you do to support our students. Have a great weekend!

With gratitude

*Dr. Anna Alvarado,*

Superintendent of Schools