

December 01, 2023

Greetings FSD Parents/Guardians & Staff,

We warmly welcome the festive spirit of the holiday season throughout the district with families and friends. The next few weeks will be busy with learning, concerts, sports and celebrations, as 2023 comes to an end. In this season we are grateful for our staff, our students, our families and our community.

CELEBRATIONS

US News and World Report Names Center School In Top 40%



Based on the most recent school report card data, Center School has placed in the top 40% of all elementary schools in the state of IL. US News and World Report has named Center Elementary a US News Best Elementary School! Center Principal Amanda Hayes says, "The student growth has been tremendous at Center. We still have room to grow but these awesome kids, families, and the staff are putting Center School on the map! It's a great time to be a Cheetah!" **CONGRATULATIONS CENTER SCHOOL!**

Special Education Day



Special Education Day is celebrated on December 2, to commemorate the signing of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act into law on this day in 1975 (IDEA). IDEA granted access to children with special needs to free and quality public education. The act has been revised several times but the crux of it remains the same, and is the foundation for special education in the U.S. In support of this act, many organizations pledge to provide good education to students with special needs.

Around the District

Here's a special snippet of a few things going on ["Around the District"](#) over the last couple of weeks. One feature this week is the FHS Ag Department receiving an \$80K+ grant from CFNIL for a Greenhouse Lab to further student's agricultural and career skills. Facebook users check out our page for many more of the daily exciting things going on ["Around the District"](#).

Academics, special recognitions, other extracurriculars, classroom learning, field trips, special events, we cover it all! You can also follow us on X (formerly [Twitter](#)).

The FHS Music Department presents this year's "[Holiday Spectacular](#)" featuring FHS students and the annual production of "[Christmas Memories](#)" featuring current and former staff members & friends. See the fliers for both events by clicking on the names of the shows. We hope to see you at both productions!

Around the District our **Performing Arts** program is being enhanced and expanded to include middle school and elementary students. Under the direction of Mr. Tim Connors and Ms. Sarah Buchmann, Freeport Middle School will be presenting a **Spoken Word Competition** in January. Coming in April, there will be **Wee Speech**, giving students from Grade 3-8 the opportunity to create a speech and compete at a tournament. We are excited about the expansion of the arts and can't wait to see our younger students in action.

~Upcoming Events & Opportunities~

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

The **Freeport Park District** shares sports & recreation programming and events for Winter 23-24. [View flier](#).

REMINDERS

FSD Employment Opportunities

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

Upcoming Notable Dates:

December 22 - Full Day School Improvement (No school for Students)

December 25 to January 5 - Winter Break

December 25, 26 & January 1, 2 - FSD Offices Holiday Closure

We are only 3 weeks away from Winter Break! Speaking of winter, at any time the weather may dictate that we transition to a remote learning day. To ensure that you receive weather-related notifications from the district, please make sure your phone numbers and email addresses are updated in our system.

Our last communication of 2023 will be on 12/15/23. Have a great weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anna Alvarado,

Superintendent of Schools