



# SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

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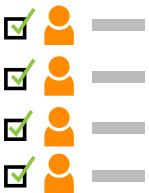


★ ★ ★ HAPPY ★ ★ ★

## PRESIDENTS' DAY

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

#### ATTENDANCE

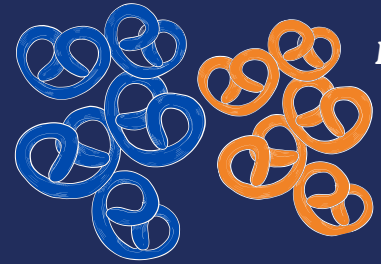


I want to continue to stress the importance of student attendance for the remainder of the second semester. We are seeing a downward trend in chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more school days, excused or unexcused, which equates to 17+ days of absence), which is a good thing. I want to reiterate the fact that all our schools are focused on addressing how to improve student attendance through their school improvement plans.

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, our chronic absenteeism rate was 37.2%. Currently, our overall rate on the 105th day of school is 28%. We will continue to do our part in working hard to keep students engaged and build important academic and social skills. However, schools cannot do this work alone. Therefore, I am once again reaching out to our families to help us get students to attend school regularly. Regular attendance helps build consistency in routines and more importantly, life skills that have greater implications towards the future of our students. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in this most important effort. Working together we will continue to decrease chronic absenteeism in our District.

#### President's Day Trivia! - Did you know that:

- The first 7 U.S. Presidents were immigrants..
- President Washington chose the site for the White House, his successor John Adams was the first President to live there.



## STATE COMPETITIONS /PARTICIPATIONS

There are a number of students competing at the State level over the next 2 weekends. Safe travels to our students, coaches and families. Stand tall Pretzels and know that Pretzel Nation is loudly and proudly cheering you on!



### Speech

Max Krezmewski  
Mya Ortiz  
Nathan Redmore  
Rachel Sdao

### Girls Wrestling

Cadence Diduch



### Girls Bowling

Diem Beach  
Cameron Plowman



In Performing Arts, FHS had 4 students play in the **IL State Music Educators All-State Conference** in January. Kudos to these amazing music students and congratulation on this accomplishment:

**Ava Chander**  
**Janayah Palmer**  
**Kyla Riesenbichler - State Honors Choir**  
**Noah Schiffman**



## Black History Celebration

As we continue the celebration of Black History Month, FHS students and alumni who are/were part of C.H.O.I.C.E.S. (Choosing Healthy Option in Careers, Education & Success) will present a program featuring music, dance and drama. The program begins at 6 PM on Saturday, February 24th at the Jeannette L. Theater. Retired Educator, Ms. LaFrancine Baker is the C.H.O.I.C.E.S Advisor and Director of the production. [View the flyer!](#)



### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb 19: President's Day, FSD Closed  
Feb 20: School Improvement Day  
No School for Students



visit us at: [www.fsd145.org](http://www.fsd145.org)



## THOSE WHO EXCEL WINNERS 2024

Since 1970, the Illinois State Board of Education has sponsored the Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year program to honor educators who have made significant contributions to our state's public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools. All awardees are honored at an annual banquet in the Spring.

FSD is excited to announce our four individuals and one team being honored in 2024.

### AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

**Jennifer De Jong**, Principal  
Jones-Farrar, an IB World School

### AWARD OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION

**Yonca Benoy**, Behavior Specialist  
Center School

**Nikki Wheeler**, MTSS Facilitator  
Freeport High School

**MTSS Team**, MTSS Facilitators  
District Wide

### AWARD OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

**Janet Tomita**, Teacher  
Freeport Middle School

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all of our recipients and thanks to those who nominated and supported them.