



News & Notes



Goal 2009-10 — Raising the Bar

Summer is fleeting and the campus has gone through its cleaning phase. Teachers and students will soon return ready to resume their academic studies. Renewed spirit and new aspirations create excitement at the beginning of the year. A new academic course load often brings curiosity and interest. Raising the academic bar at Freeman Academy is a school-wide goal for 2009-10. While we are proud of our accomplishments, there is room for improvement. It is easy for us to get caught up in our daily routine, and our aspirations often wane when we get tired. An area that teachers struggle with most during the year is when sporting or music events take students away from the classroom. We often throw up our hands and say, "Too many are gone; we can't have class." It is also easy for students to persuade a teacher to give them a few more days to work on an assignment because they are too busy. In reality, there is much we can do to use our time more wisely. We have room to raise the bar.

Teachers will be encouraged to give assignments even when only a few remain in the classroom. Assignments can be given in advance, and students will have opportunity to complete them prior to their absence or while they are gone. Technology allows teachers to post assignments online and students are creative at using phones to access friends or go online for assignments. Parents also have the ability to view teachers' assignments or contact teachers by e-mail.

Students need to take responsibility for their learning as well. Instead of working to get out of assignments, students need to make an effort to expand their knowledge by asking teachers questions about the subject matter of interest to them.

Parents are encouraged to ask their students specific questions about their day at school. We need to show an active interest in their academic successes and struggles as we do with extracurricular activities. Parents can communicate with teachers at any time, not just during parent-teacher conferences.

Our ability to stay focused as the school year progresses becomes increasingly difficult. Let's help build each other up in this effort to educate young lives in the gifts they have been given. There are many small ways to raise the academic bar.

Important Handbook Items

By now you have thoroughly read your handbook and signed and returned the back page. This is repetitive information, but as the new school year approaches, there are two areas I would like to emphasize. The new tardy policy written by our respect committee, as part of the NCA process, for a repeat tardy offender has changed. A

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Enclosures

- Turner Co. Fair Taco Stand Information (FA Aug. lunch menu on back)
- August/September Activity Calendars – *subject to change*
- 1st Trimester Schedules
- Athletic Info: Schedules for Volleyball, Cross Country, Soccer, Girls' & Boys' JV/Varsity Basketball-*subject to change*, Letters From Coach Epp and Coach Flohrs
- May 23, 2009 Board Minutes



August 2009

True pacifism is not unrealistic submission to an evil power. . . .

It is rather a courageous confrontation with evil by the power of love.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Do not envy the violent and do not choose any of their ways; for the perverse are an abomination to the Lord, but the upright are in his confidence.

Proverbs 3:31-32, NRSV

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Goal 2009-10—Raising the Bar

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repeat offender will progress to a Saturday morning detention with a supervisory fee of \$25 after the sixth consecutive tardy (page 3 in the handbook).

Secondly, under unexcused absences (page 3 of the handbook), we ask parents to be clear about absences and reasons when calling the office. Administration often needs to determine if the absence is excused or unexcused.

Independent Study Course Information

Students will again have the opportunity to take independent study courses. **Courses need to be ordered by August 14. A late fee of \$25 will be assessed if ordering after that date.**

Please contact Mr. Schrock (dschrock@freemanacademy.org) to register for an independent study course. The fees for the independent study courses taken during the 2009-10 school year are as follows:

- The fee for a class from UNL (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) is \$200 plus \$10 for a first-time student.
- The fee for a class from UND (University of North Dakota)

is \$180.00 (08-09 fee).

- The fee for Business/Consumer Math or Spanish III & IV is \$120.00
- These fees are per one-half credit (one trimester only) with the exception of accounting.

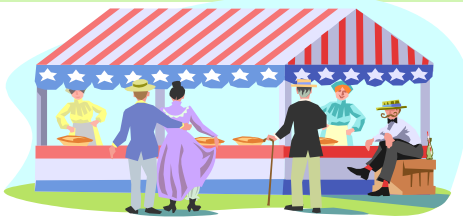
The student registering for independent study needs to have the approval of administration in order to ensure enough time in their schedule to accommodate the independent study course.

For information on additional courses, check out the online catalog at <http://highschool.unl.edu>.

Clarification on Tuition Reduction Hours

Tuition reduction hours related to fundraisers will be given only to organize and chair events. Parent hours for work at fundraisers will be discontinued with the exception of the fair booth. While many of the discontinued hours may seem worthwhile, there are positions on the volunteer list that are vital to operations at school that are not being utilized. The plea to forego tuition reduction hours was not an option for many parents, so the types of hours we can accept will need to directly benefit the school.

Pam Tieszen



FA Fair Food Booth

A reminder that we need all families, parents and students in

grades 7-12, to work in the FA Fair Food Booth during the Turner County Fair, August 17-20. We can also use some help Wednesday, August 12, starting at 9:00 a.m. to help clean the booth in preparation for the fair. Parents do get parent hours for their work, and everyone that works a 4-hour or longer shift gets a food coupon to be used in our booth. Sign up now to get the shift(s) you want! **The contact/scheduling person this year is Barb Yoder, 925-4713.**

Please read the attached article for details concerning the different work shifts, state requirements for dress, and other miscellaneous facts. Thanks for your help! If you know of anyone else who would like to help us out in the food booth, please have them contact Barb or give their names to her and she will contact them. This is a big fundraiser for FA, and our students benefit greatly from it.

Fair Committee: Monica Clem, Donna Ries, Sharla Unruh, Lois Wollman

Health & Accident Insurance

Enclosed please find insurance forms for health and accident insurance.

The school does not provide accident insurance for students. Since children are particularly susceptible to injuries, we encourage you to review your present health and accident insurance program to determine if your coverage is adequate. If you do not feel your insurance is adequate because of a deductible or coinsurance clause, or if you do not have insurance, we encourage you to review the student insurance program. This plan will provide benefits for medical expenses incurred because of an accident. Benefits and costs are explained on the premium envelopes.

The student accident insurance becomes effective when the forms are turned in and dated in the school Business Office. If your child will be involved in fall sports, it would be advisable to hand the form in as soon as possible. **Participation in this plan is optional.**

Anita Neufeld



Notes & Reminders

Student Absences

A parent or guardian needs to call the school (925-4237) to report student absences or tardiness before 8:00 a.m. and leave a message on

the receptionist phone by dialing "0" after the automated attendant answers. Please do not leave absence/tardy messages on the direct extensions of either Anita Neufeld or Cindy Boese. If either of these individuals is out of the office that day, the message will remain in their voice mailbox and will not be heard by anyone until they return to the office which may be a day or two later.

If parent notification is not received within 24 hours, the absence or tardy will be considered "unexcused". (Please see the Student Handbook which was mailed the beginning of July regarding academic penalties for unexcused absences.) Absences other than personal illness/injury, death in the family/funerals, emergencies deemed to have good and sufficient cause for absence, doctor/dental/medical appointments will be subject to administrative approval and parent or guardian notification.

If you choose to e-mail your notification of student absence, please e-mail cboese@freemanacademy.org with a copy to aneufeld@freemanacademy.org. This helps to ensure your message is received by the school in the event either Cindy or Anita is out of the office that day.

School Pictures (a/k/a Ping Pong Pictures) !

AI's Studio from Marion will be taking individual pictures and class pictures of all students in grades 5-11 on Thursday, September 3, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Group and/or composite class pictures will also be taken and may be ordered at the same time.

An order form will be given to each student in grades 5-11 on the first day of school. Please ask your child(ren) for this form. If you plan to order pictures, the form must be completed and include payment when your child comes to school on September 3. The student is responsible for handing their form to the AI's Studio representative when it is his/her turn to be photographed. Students are not required to dress up for pictures but are asked to dress appropriately.

Help FA Save Money

If you are currently receiving the newsletter through the regular U.S. mail service, please consider receiving it via e-mail instead. Please inform Cindy Boese by e-mailing cboese@freemanacademy.org if you would like to help us in this way.

Athletic Physical Reminder!!

All athletes (grades 5-12) are required to submit a completed physical exam form to the athletic director, Nathan Epp, prior to their first sports practice. Forms are available in the FA administration office and at the Freeman Rural Medical Clinic.

You may call the clinic, 925-4219, to set individual appointments and should tell them it is for an athletic physical. If you are not planning to participate in a fall sport but do plan to participate in a winter and/or spring sport, you may still schedule your physical this summer and turn the completed form in to the school office.

2009-2010 Registration and Consent Forms

All forms (grades 5 – 12) were due in the office July 15. **If you have not yet submitted your forms, please do so immediately.** All release forms need to be signed and submitted to the office prior to student computer accounts being activated for the next school year. This includes medical release forms, student handbook acknowledgement, etc.

These documents are also available on our web site: www.freemanacademy.org.

Scholarships at Freeman Academy

We are very happy to offer the Edward and Alma Preheim Scholarship, the Sanctity of Life Scholarship, and the Gordon and Shirley Brockmueller Scholarship. Information describing the requirements, qualifications and application process for each scholarship was mailed with last month's newsletter and is also available at www.freemanacademy.org. All scholarship applications are due September 10.

Office Volunteers

Tuition reduction hours may be obtained by volunteering at the reception desk in the administration office. This is a great way to get to know the students, faculty and staff, as well as gain an understanding of the processes involved with the day-to-day operation of our school.

If you are interested in volunteering in the office, please e-mail me, cboese@freemanacademy.org, or call 605-925-4237, ext. 224, and we will get you on the schedule.

Cindy Boese

Vocal Music



High School Choir/ Chamber Choir

All students in grades 9-12 are welcome to join the concert choir. Concert choir meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:42-1:30 p.m.

Members are required to attend all classes and performances.

The past two years we have started out the year with men's and women's choirs on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This year, due to the choir trip into Canada, we will have chamber choir start at the beginning of the year so choir members may have ample time to obtain passports before April 2010.

Chamber choir is an auditioned choir with 25 to 30 members. Students must be a member of the concert choir and full-time student to audition for chamber choir. Class times for chamber choir will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:08-11:00 a.m. Members are required to attend all classes and performances. This choir will travel to Kitchener, Ontario, Canada in April for the Mennonite Secondary Council's (MSC) Choir Festival.

Auditions for chamber choir will start on Wednesday

afternoon, August 26, and continue on Thursday, August 27, during the chamber choir period in the Music Hall choir room. Please come and sign up for an audition slot by the choir room bulletin board.

Audition expectations:

Sing a song either accompanied or unaccompanied. This song can be a hymn, contest solo or a song you wrote.

Be prepared to do some sight singing.

Tonal memory - I will play a few notes and you will sing them back to me.

Should you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact me at the school.

A Note to the Parents

Each year Freeman Academy's full choir is invited to participate and share in worship at Hutterthal Mennonite Church, Salem-Zion (North) Mennonite Church and Salem (South) Mennonite Church, all of rural Freeman. Please note the following dates on your calendar:

Oct. 18	Hutterthal Mennonite	9:45 a.m. worship
Nov. 8	Salem (South) Mennonite	9:30 a.m. worship
Jan. 24	Salem-Zion (North) Mennonite	10:30 a.m. worship

Instrumental Music



Instruments

All band students in grades 6 – 12 should bring their instruments to school on Thursday, August 27, the first day of school. If instruments need to be repaired or cleaned, please see that they are finished before the first day

of school. All woodwind players need to have at least 2 or 3 good reeds to begin the year, and percussionists must have their own pair of snare drum sticks.

All instrument cases must be marked with a durable name

tag. If you would like Donna to supply one for a \$3.00 charge, contact her at home, 925-4404. Please check the school supply list for other information.

Lessons

Lessons are a very important part of a band student's development and are required of band students in grades 5 – 8. Parents of students in grades 6-8 should start securing lesson teachers now. High school students wishing to take lessons should also contact their teachers as well. Teachers need to be in place by September 1 after which Donna will schedule the lessons given at school. Please contact Donna with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Music Department Participation Policy

All FA students are invited to participate in the various musical ensembles/band/choirs at Freeman Academy. During the course of the school year there may be other auditioned opportunities available to our students.

In the event that there is an open audition (no limit of entries is put on our school), all FA students will be eligible to audition. When there is a need for Freeman Academy to hold auditions due to a limited number of entries, only full-time students will be eligible to audition. Such events include: All-State Chorus, Chamber Choir, Grade 5-8 Tripp-Delmont Elementary Music Contest.

All participating students must fall under the Freeman Academy academic eligibility guidelines to participate in contests and festivals.

Enrollment News

Host Family Meeting—Thursday, Aug. 13, at 7:00

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a host family or if you are planning on hosting an international student this year, please attend this meeting. We will be discussing topics that pertain to being a host family and how you can help your new “family member” adjust to life and school in the United States.

The meeting will be held in the chapel at 7:00 p.m. and will last approximately an hour. Please contact Bonnie Young at 925-4237, ext. 225 or byoung@freemanacademy.org if you have any questions.

Student Peer Mentors Needed

If you enjoy people and want to share the positive experience that you have had at Freeman Academy, this may be the opportunity for you!

I am looking for students in grades 8-12 that are interested in mentoring new students. We have several new students planning to attend our school this year. Some are from the Freeman area and others are from outside our local community, including some students from other countries. This opportunity will allow you to meet someone new and to help them feel “at home” at Freeman Academy. If you are interested, please contact Bonnie Young at 925-4237, ext 225 or byoung@freemanacademy.org.



Development News

Ribs at the Ranch Report!

Praise the Lord for another wonderful summer evening to host the public for our second annual ribfest on Saturday, June 27! The dunk tank, inflatable, and face painting proved to be popular attractions this year and will be repeated next summer! Thanks to Collin Kleinsasser, Paul Peterson & Friends, and Radar Ray and the Creekbusters for delightful music that entertained the crowd. Visitors enjoyed the car show, and we hope to have more exhibitors next year!

Seven chefs prepared 700 pounds of ribs to feed a hungry crowd! Bob and Cheryl Wollmann won the grand prize of \$400 cash and a gas grill that was donated by the National Pork Producers. We are grateful for the support that was shown by the greater Freeman community by their attendance at the event. Jim Haar and Gladys Simantel got to “Kiss the Pig,” raising \$1050 that was donated to the Freeman Community Foundation.

Thanks to all who assisted in all areas! Next year’s date is June 26, 2010.

Booster Club Activities 2009-2010

The Booster Club has four main fundraising events that raise money to help support our athletic teams by purchasing

uniforms and equipment or by paying for food or hotel rooms at state level competitions. The past three years, we have also contributed over \$19,000 to the carpet floor covering for Sterling Hall! Money raised in 2009-10 will be able to pay off the final \$3500 of the total cost!

We count on parents taking charge of each of these events: Soccer Concessions (see next article), Papa Murphy’s Pizza Night, Pork Loin BBQ, and Winter Fruit Sales. Contact Vernetta Waltner at 925-4237, ext. 235 or vwaltner@freemanacademy.org to volunteer for chairing the event of your choice!

Soccer Concessions

There are eight home games this year: Aug. 25, Sept. 4, Sept. 5, Sept. 8, Sept. 18, Sept. 19, Sept. 22, and Sept. 24. We need a parent or group of parents to coordinate concessions for these dates. Menus could vary or be the same at every game.

In the past we have served a variety of foods on different occasions: hotdogs, brats, hamburgers, walking tacos, homemade rolls (for Sat. morning games), granola bars, candy bars, chips, popcorn, or apples. Contact Vernetta to volunteer!

Upcoming Events

* Subject to change

July

- 26-31 HS Honors Choir in Aberdeen
30 Board Meal ~ 6:00 pm
Board Mtg ~ Myles Brockmueller's Home ~ 7:00 pm
31 FA Class of '59 ~ Vis Ctr ~ Evening

August

- 1 FA Class of '49 ~ FH ~ 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
FA Class of '84 ~ Vis Ctr ~ noon - evening
Alumni Banquet ~ DH ~ 6:30 pm
4 Communications Mtg ~CH ~ 10:00 am
6-8 Pvt. Reserv. ~ DH & PH
8 Pvt. Reserv. ~ Vis Ctr. ~ 5:00 – 8:00 pm
9 Pvt. Reserv. ~ Vis Ctr. ~ 12:00 Noon – 4:00 pm
10 **Soccer Practice Begins**
Volleyball mtg (gr 9-12) ~ FH ~ 7:00 pm
11 Pvt Reserv~Vis Ctr ~11:00 am-3:00 pm
11 **Finance Comm. Mtg. ~ 8:00 pm ~ MH**
12 Enroll Strng Comm Mtg~CH ~ 1:30pm
13 **Host Family Mtg ~ CH ~ 7:00 pm**
15 Soccer Scrimmage ~ 8:00 —10:00 am
17 **Cross Country & Volleyball Practices Begin**
17-20 **Turner County Fair**

- 21 JV (4:00) & V (6:00) Soccer @ Hot Springs
22 V Soccer @ Custer ~ 9:00 am
23 Arboretum Sweet Corn Bash ~ pm
Opening Convocation ~ PH ~ 7:30 ~ followed by Classroom Open House
24 Staff In-Service
25 V Soccer v Groton ~ Home ~ 5:00 pm
25-26 Staff In-Service Days
27 **First Day of School**
Prayer Mtg ~ CH ~ 6:30 pm
Board Mtg ~ MH ~ 7:00 pm
28 Cross Country @ Beresford ~ 10:00 am
29 JV (11:00) & V (1:00) Soccer @ Mitchell

September

- 1 Communications Mtg ~ CH ~ 10:00 am
Cross Country @ Salem ~ 4:15 pm
Volleyball @ Dakota Christian ~ 6:15 pm
2 Pvt. Reserv. ~ Vis Ctr ~ 1:00-4:00 pm
3 **School Pictures (grades 5 – 11) ~ PH ~ 8:30 am**
Volleyball @ Menno ~ 6:15 pm
4 V Soccer v Bl Fourche~Home ~ 5:00 pm

- 5 Cross Country @ USD ~ TBA
V Soccer v Douglas ~ Home ~ 10:00 am
Pvt. Reserv. ~ Vis Ctr ~ 1:00 – 6:00 pm
4-7 Life Light ~ Sioux Falls
7 **No School ~ Labor Day**
8 Cross Country @ Scotland ~ 4:15 pm
V Soccer v Mitch Xian~Home~5:00 pm
VB v DR St Mary's ~ Home ~ 6:15 pm
9 Cross Country ~ Home ~ 4:00 pm
10 Volleyball v Alc/Hudson~Home~5:00 pm
12 **Studio Subscription Series ~ PH ~ 7:00 pm ~ Tina and Lena**

ADM Administration (Classroom Building)
CH Chapel
FH Frontier Hall (dormitory)
MH Music Hall
PH Pioneer Hall
SH Sterling Hall
VisCtr Visitor Center
Arbor Arboretum
Amph Amphitheater

Calendar Reminders

August 10—Soccer Practice Begins

August 17—Volleyball and Cross Country Practices Begin

August 17 – 20—Turner County Fair – Parent and Student Assistance Needed

August 23—Opening Convocation - 7:30 p.m. at Pioneer Hall followed by Classroom Open House

August 27—First Day of School!

September 3—School Pictures Taken of All Grade 5-11

FREEMAN ACADEMY

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Bring Learning to Life

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