



FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FREEDOM HILL ELEMENTARY

1945 Lord Fairfax Road
Vienna, Virginia 22182

August, 2016

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

Freedom Hill Elementary School would like to welcome you to an exciting new school year! We achieved many goals last year and continue to raise the bar for our students, staff, and community. The staff at Freedom Hill have been working diligently to welcome our families into an environment that will continue to foster the FCPS Portrait of a Graduate attributes. Our students will continue to grow as communicators, collaborators, ethical and global citizens, creative and critical thinkers, and goal-directed and resilient individuals.

As a member of our Professional Learning Community, your support will be essential to reach our achievement goals. We pride ourselves on committing to high levels of collaboration in order to reach all of our students. Together we will overcome any barriers to ensure your child maximizes each moment and loves learning. Our efforts are directed at the whole child.

We hope that you had an enjoyable summer with family and friends. Our new theme this year is *Growing Great Minds!* This theme was inspired by our impressive school garden. From the garden's success, one particular connection that resonates with me is "many hands make light work." I truly believe that together we can accomplish anything.

We are thrilled to continue the exciting, hands-on learning in our STEM Lab (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Teachers continue their efforts to launch project-based learning experiences for students. The increased frequency of Advanced Academic Program resource integration across the school will provide enrichment and extensions for students. Our intervention systems remain strong; moving forward with a sense of urgency to close achievement gaps. Differentiated instruction is a non-negotiable.

Change is inevitable. As several staff have moved on from "The Hill", we have searched high and low to invite new staff members to our community. Identifying the most qualified candidates for our positions is some of our most important work – it is people that make the difference. You can learn more about our new staff members by following this link (for the active link, an electronic version of this letter is posted on the school blog and website) – [Welcome New Staff Members!](#)

Our bus run information is included with this letter. It is critical that your children know their bus number and stop. Please note the walking routes as well. For safety reasons, all kindergarten students must be met by a parent or an adult for pick-up.

School begins on Tuesday, September 6th. Freedom Hill student hours are 9:20 AM – 4:05 PM. Buses depart FHES at 4:15. Students may not be dropped off before 9:10 AM, as there is no supervision. Additionally, students will not be supervised in the front office after dismissal. Any change in your child's normal dismissal routine must be reported to the office before 3:00 PM. Otherwise, the change will not take place and your child will go home their regular way.

The price for lunch is \$3.00 for students. Breakfast costs \$1.75. Milk can be purchased separately for \$.60. Students eligible for free or reduced-price meals will continue to receive benefits until Wednesday, October 19th. In order to continue benefits after October 19th, applications should be sent to the Food Service Office by October 1st as processing can take up to 2 weeks. A new application is required each year. For further information, please refer to the Food and Nutrition Services website at: www.fcps.edu/fs/food. Breakfast begins Thursday, September 8th.

If registration requirements are not completed at this time, please do so before the start of school. Student enrollment is critical in our planning and preparation. On the first day of school, look for several important documents to come home with valuable information, including information from our wonderful PTA. These forms will need to be completed and brought back to school as soon as possible.

Never hesitate to contact us for additional information. Be sure to visit Freedom Hill's website (<http://www.fcps.edu/FreedomHillES>) regularly for the most current information for the upcoming school year, as well as our blog (<http://hillhighlights.edublogs.org/>) and new Twitter account (@FreedomHillES, #FHHighlights).

Sincerely,

Scott E. Bloom & Teresa Davis
Principal Assistant Principal



Homeroom Assignment

Student: _____

Teacher: _____ Grade: _____ Room #: _____

Important Dates:

- Open House will be held on Thursday, September 1st from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. At that time students and families may visit their classroom, meet their new teacher, and see the campus.
- Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, September 15th at 6:00 PM for grades K through 6. This night is intended for parents/guardians only. The evening will begin in the cafeteria.

Kiss and Ride / Walkers – Dismissal Procedures – Like last year, each student has an assigned dismissal number. Parents keep and display the large number in the Kiss & Ride line or at the SACC door for walkers at dismissal. Students attach the small number to their book bag. Parents/guardians are not allowed to linger in the main lobby entrance. This is for your child's safety. Numbers will be distributed at Open House (remaining numbers will be sent home on the first day of school). There are 3 ways for dismissal – bus, Kiss and Ride, and walkers (parents wait by SACC door).

Keep In Touch (KIT) – <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/>. Previous users need not reapply. This technology is critical for communication! A weekly email will be sent from Mr. Bloom with important information.

