

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

Freedom Hill Elementary School – Positivity Starts Here! It’s time to launch into another great school year and this year our theme *Positivity Starts Here!* sets the tone 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 – academic, social, and emotional development.

We hope that you had an enjoyable summer with family and friends. Our new theme *Positivity Starts Here!* was inspired by our new commitment to the [Positivity Project](#), a character education program now found in many FCPS schools. Embedding this work alongside our Responsive Classroom practices will enhance our efforts to build classroom communities and students who are able to and value building positive relationships. The Positivity Project’s hashtag is #otherpeoplematter. The Project empowers students to build positive relationships by equipping educators with the training, strategy, and resources to teach positive psychology’s 24 character strengths.

We are proud to continue offering a variety of differentiated learning experiences for students to ensure all are appropriately challenged and supported. Programming such as the STEM Lab (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), project-based learning (PBL), blended learning (technology integration), AAP level IV resources, and Special Education and ESOL services, to name a few, are evidence of this commitment.

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 visiting this previous newsletter here:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/VAEDUFCPS/bulletins/1fb7ef8>

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, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Freedom Hill student hours are 9:20 AM – 4:05 PM. Buses depart FHES at 4:15. Students may not be dropped off before 9:05 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 regular price for lunch is \$3.25 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 10<sup>th</sup>. In order to continue benefits after October 10<sup>th</sup>, applications should be sent to the Food Service Office by September 26<sup>th</sup> as processing can take up to 2 weeks. A new application is required each year and can now be submitted on at <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/student-safety-and-wellness/food-and-nutrition-programs/free-and-reduced-price-meals>. Payments can be made at [www.MySchoolBucks.com](http://www.MySchoolBucks.com). School breakfast and lunch menus are available via the free FCPS mobile app or web at <http://fcps.nutrislice.com/>. Breakfast begins Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

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 and second 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 Twitter account (@FreedomHillES, #FHHHighlights) and blog (<http://hillhighlights.edublogs.org/>). A newsletter will be sent via email to you every Sunday. Please contact the school if you are not receiving it.

We leave you with a quote from the Positivity Project's inspiration Dr. Chris Peterson who stated "I can sum up positive psychology in just three words – Other People Matter. Period."

Sincerely,

Scott E. Bloom & Elizabeth Williams  
Principal Assistant Principal



**Homeroom Assignment**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Room #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Important Dates:**

- Open House will be held on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00 AM. 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 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM for grades K through 6. This night is intended for parents/guardians only. The evening will begin in the cafeteria.