

Student and Parent Handbook
2018-2019



Lead, Learn, Soar

School Hours: 7:20am – 2:20pm
Phone Number: (270) 887-7150
District Phone Number: (270) 887-7000
Bus Garage: (270) 887- 7099

Administration

Principal: Brooke Stinson
Assistant Principal(s): Chris Guier and Jason Wilson
Guidance Counselor: Amanda Baxter and Jo Jo Jarvis

Agenda/Planner

All students in grades 2 through 6 will be issued an agenda book on the first day of school. The agenda book is a great tool for communication between home and school as well as an organizational tool for managing homework assignments. Many teachers require the agenda to be signed by a parent signifying that you, the parent, have reviewed the items that are due. It is important that the parent has also checked to make sure the child's homework is complete and in the child's backpack ready to come to school the next day.

If the agenda is lost or damaged during the school year, you will need to replace the agenda with a \$2.00 charge. We have extra copies of the agendas in the front office. Students are expected to have their agendas with them daily at school. Please make sure the agenda is in your child's backpack each morning to return to school.

Attendance

Regular attendance in Kentucky schools is mandatory per KRS 159.010. Please refer to the Christian County Code of Conduct regarding attendance. Your child's regular attendance at school helps in their success, enjoyment, and achievement at school. Please send a note to school, upon your child's return, with a parent signature stating the reason your child was absent, or a note from the doctor.

Early Dismissal

In the event of an early dismissal (your child is leaving early for the day), we ask that you send a note to your child's teacher so that work may be gathered and sent home with your child. This way the child will not miss vital instruction while they are absent. If the early dismissal is due to a doctor or dentist appointment, please be sure to send a doctor's note when you return to school so that the absence may be recorded as a doctor's visit rather than a parent excuse. A parent or guardian will need to come into the office to sign the child out. Please note that early dismissals are absent events and do count toward perfect attendance.

Educational Enhancement Opportunity (EHO)

Students shall be granted an opportunity to explore educational or cultural enhancement opportunities. All requests need to be submitted to Mrs. Stinson for approval and can be found on our district website. Applications for EHO must be submitted at least 5 days prior to the scheduled opportunity. Students who take advantage of an EHO have the same rights to make up work as students receiving an excused absence.

Birthdays

Please do not bring birthday invitations to be passed out at school as this creates problems and tension among classmates. Birthday treats may be sent in on your child's birthday and will be delivered after 1:00pm to their class. If there are allergies in the classroom, our school nurse will let you know.

Book Fairs

We will have two Scholastic Book Fair in both the fall and spring. Mrs. Harrell, our librarian, will send out more information as time gets closer to the fairs. Our fall book fair is October 1st-5th.

Buses

For safety reasons, students are expected to act in a reasonably quiet and orderly manner at the bus stops, as well as when loading, riding, or unloading the bus. If you have concerns about specific situations on the bus, or with a specific bus driver, please contact the bus garage at 887-7099. Making Mr. Wilson or Mr. Guier aware of a situation is helpful. Please understand that BUS SERVICE IS A PRIVILEGE and may be denied for undesirable behavior.

Cafeteria

Carole Hudson is our cafeteria manager. If you have any questions, please contact her at carole.hudson@christian.kyschools.us. We will allow lunch visitors at Freedom Elementary as long as it does not become a distraction and as long as our space allows it.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

We participate in the Community Eligibility Option (CEO) and all students will be served breakfast and lunch at no charge regardless of their economic status.

Car Pick-up

Car tags will need to be issued to any student and/or family that will be picked up from school in the car pick up line. Each family will get a set of two tags. Car pick up will begin at 2:25. We will let the students out based on the order of the car line for that particular day. Safety is our number one priority and we ask parents or guardians picking up students to remain in their vehicle until their child comes out. We will not release any child to adults who come to the doors unless they are walkers. If you need your child earlier than 2:20, please come to the front office to check them out. Please understand that if it is before 2:20, it will be counted as a tardy. Please make arrangements to have your child load from the passenger side. This way students do not have to walk between cars to get in on the other side. We appreciate anything you can do to assist your child in learning their car tag number. This will help all students load the cars quicker.

Clubs

There will be many opportunities for our students to join different clubs during the school year. Most of our clubs will meet after-school. Below is a list of possible clubs:

- Choir
- Chess
- Student Lighthouse
- Student PBIS
- Academic Team (Grades 3-6 try-outs only)
- Student Technology Leadership Program

Communication

Effective communication is a priority for us at Freedom Elementary. We want all of our parents/guardians to have accurate and timely information. For that reason, we have several methods of getting information to you.

- Class Dojo
- Notify Me Emails, Phone Calls, and Text Messages
- Weekly Smore School Newsletter

- Classroom Newsletters
- Website, Facebook Page, and Twitter Page
- Agendas

Counselor

Our school guidance counselors are Amanda Baxter and Jo Jo Jarvis. They will meet with students during the school day through guidance classes, social groups, or individually upon request by students, teachers or parents. In addition, they schedule and facilitate over Freedom's Admissions and Release Committee, Gifted Program, Preschool Program, 504 Plan, and Response to Intervention meetings.

Dress Code

Our students are to dress in clothes promoting a safe and respectful learning environment. Please refer to the Christian County Code of Conduct for specific examples.

Daily Folder

At the beginning of the school year we will issue a yellow vinyl folder to each student. This folder will be sent home each day and should be returned the next day. This daily folder is VERY IMPORTANT. Please check your child's backpack each night.

Family Resource Center

The intent of the Family Resource Center is to enhance the abilities of our students to succeed in school by assisting children, youth and families in meeting some of their basic needs. This is accomplished by providing services at the center or by linking families to agencies in the community. All children at Freedom can use the services provided by the Family Resource Center. The center is open during regular school hours and during the summer months by appointment. Some of the activities and programs sponsored by the Family Resource Center are:

- Boo Hoo Breakfast for Preschool Parents
- Housing Authority Tutoring
- Volunteers to work in the classrooms
- Morning with Dad
- Morning with Mom

Our E.A.G.L.E. Nest's FRC director is Chris Dudley. FRC Center of operation is from 7:00-3:00 p.m. and after hours by appointments only. Please feel free to contact him at (270)887-7153 or his email address is chris.dudley@christian.kyschools.us

Grading

Our Kindergarten program uses standard-based grading report card and grades 1st-6th will receive numeric grades based on the 10 point scale below. Specials classes (Computer Lab, Music, PE, and STEAM science, technology, engineering, art, and music) will issue conduct grades during the 2nd and 4th nine weeks.

Christian County Public School's Grading Scale

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F Below 59

Report cards for the primary and intermediate grades are issued every 9 weeks with mid terms issued every 4.5 weeks in grades 1 through 6. Students will bring report cards home with them at the end of each grading period. Please look for these in your child's daily yellow folder and contact your child's teacher if you do not receive your child's report card at the end of a grading period. These reports must be signed and returned to your child's teacher so that the teacher is aware you have seen them. Our school will have 1st and 3rd quarter Parent Teacher conferences. More information to come later!

Honor Roll

Students in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades with an “A” average will be recognized as a Principal’s List member each quarter. Students with an “A/“B” average will be recognized as an Honor Roll member for each quarter.

Mission Statement

At Freedom Elementary, we will

Show leadership

Own our actions

Achieve our goals

Respect everyone!

Motto

Lead, Learn, Soar!

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

If you would like to join our PTO, please join us at our PTO meetings. Our PTO meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the commons area. This partnership is an important part of our school. We hope you will join and help us make Freedom shine!

2018-2019 PTO Officers:

President: Leigh Ann Erickson

Vice President: Cora Russell

Secretary: TBD

Treasurer: Ashley Brown

Site Based Decision Making Council (SBDM)

The Council meets every third Monday of the month at 2:30pm in our media center. All agendas and minutes are posted on our school website under the SBDM page and our parent bulletin board in the commons area.

2018-2019 SBDM Members:

Brooke Stinson, Chair, Principal

Paige Roeder, Co-Chair, Teacher Representative

Alisha Runyon, Teacher Representative

Angel Stephenson, Teacher Representative

Serena Bell, Parent Representative

Veronica Tuck, Parent Representative

School Pictures

Individual photographs of students will be taken during the school year. Purchasing pictures will be on a voluntary basis. Prior to picture day, additional information will be sent home to parents/guardians listing prices of various packets. In the fall, standard yearbook photos are taken. In the spring, specialized individual photos as well as a class photo is offered. Southern Exposures is the company we use for our pictures.

Save-the-Date: Fall Pictures will be September 19th.

Transportation Changes

All transportation changes need to be completed in person at the school. We understand emergencies can happen, however due to a district policy, transportation changes can't occur over the phone. Please understand, to ensure the safety of our students, it is important that transportation changes occur in a timely manner.

Visitors

All visitors must check-in at the front desk of the school office upon entering the building. Visitors will wear an identifying visitor's badge while in the building. At no time should a visitor go directly to a classroom, gym, nurse's office, or the lunchroom without a visitor's pass. Parents/Guardians are welcome to visit the building and observe classes with the principal's permission. The principal will notify the teachers when the observation will take place. Per contract, teachers must be notified 24 hours prior to a parent observation.

Vision Statement

Freedom Elementary School will be a safe, culturally diverse environment that encourages all students to excel, achieve their maximum potential academically and socially, and foster a lifelong joy of learning and leadership in the 21st century.

Volunteers

We wouldn't make it without our very dedicated group of volunteers and we owe them so much for all they have done. To become a volunteer you must have a current (yearly) background check. All background checks are \$10 cash and usually take two weeks to come back from processing. Please contact Chris Dudley, our Family Resource Center Director for more information.