

FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

Excellence in All Things

3149 Chester Avenue | Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18020
(610) 867-5843

FINAL DRAFT - AUGUST 2026

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Welcome and School Information

This handbook is provided to you and your parents/guardians in order to acquaint you with the major facets of your Freedom High School experience. This handbook can prove to be very useful and the administration urges you to review this to become familiar with its contents.

Contained throughout these pages are the calendar of events for the upcoming school year, the testing calendar, the grading system and report card window, promotion and graduation requirements, information about National Honor Society, how the course selection, course withdrawal, and schedule changes processes are handled, attendance policies, and the Framework for Citizenship.

Parents/Guardians of Freedom students should review this handbook as well so that they are familiar with all policies and procedures.

Finally, I hope your years spent at Freedom High School are happy ones. I wish you academic success and the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities that you enjoy. This is the formula for a successful high school career. Laurie Sage Principal Freedom High School

Administration and Contacts

Freedom High School • 3149 Chester Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18020 • (610) 867-5843

School Administration

Name	Role / Responsibility	Ext.
Laurie Sage	Principal	—
Marissa Kvacky	Assistant Principal — Curriculum and Instruction	53914
Michael P. DiBilio	Assistant Principal — Students A–Gh	53914
Mark Sawicki	Assistant Principal — Students Gi–O	53914
Charmaine Aguilar	Assistant Principal — Students P–Z	53914
Elizabeth DeJesus	Secretary — Suite 101	53914

Suite 101 • Fax: (610) 954-8849

Student-Service Offices

Office	Staff Member / Assignment	Ext.
Attendance — Room 227	Patricia Whirl — Attendance Secretary, A-L	53905
Attendance — Room 227	Stephanie Davis — Attendance Secretary, M-Z	53908
Guidance — Room 207	Tammy Jones — Guidance Secretary, A-L	53904
Guidance — Room 207	Irene Kochman — Guidance Secretary, M-Z	53907

Attendance fax: (610) 807-5580 • Guidance fax: (610) 807-5581

School Counselors

Student Last Name	Counselor	Extension	Email
A-Cha	Mrs. Loretta Lohenitz	53920	llohenitz@basdschools.org
Che-E	Mr. Adam Burke	53925	aburke@basdschools.org
F-He	Mr. Christian Lynde	53927	clynde@basdschools.org
Hi-Mam	Mrs. Virginia Werkheiser	53922	vwerkheiser@basdschools.org
Man-O	Ms. Julia Melito	53924	jmelito@basdschools.org
P-Rod	Mrs. Melanie Houser	53921	mhouser@basdschools.org
Roe-S	Ms. Selines Oquendo	53928	soquendo@basdschools.org
T-Z	Mr. John Kaczmarek	53929	jkaczmarek@basdschools.org

Department Leadership

Department	Department Leader	Department	Department Leader
Business	Cheryl Santini	Mathematics	Jeffrey Young
ESOL	Karen Lynn	Science	Eric Baltz
Fine & Practical Arts	Michael Moran	Social Studies	Donna Roman
Guidance	John Kaczmarek	Special Education	Nicole Hart
Health & Physical Education	Joseph Stellato	World Language	Cynthia Baylis
English	Michael Dunstan		

District Administration

Administrator	District Role
Dr. Renato Lajara	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Harry Aristakesian	Assistant to the Superintendent for Finance and Administration
Mrs. Georgianne Fisher	Chief Human Resources Officer
Dr. Maureen Leeson	Assistant Superintendent for Education / Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Jodi Frankelli	Chief Pupil Services Officer
Mr. Mark Stein	Chief of Facilities and Operations
Ms. Marie Bachman	Chief Technology Officer

Board of School Directors

Leadership / Officers	Board Members
Dr. Michael E. Faccineto — President	Winston Alozie • M. Rayah Levy • Emily Schenkel
Shannon Patrick — Vice-President	Dr. Karen Beck Pooley • Michael D. Recchiuti
Harry Aristakesian — Secretary	Dr. Silagh White • Dr. Kim Shively
Frank Pearn Jr. — Treasurer	Donald F. Spry II, Esq. — Solicitor

Mission, Philosophy, and Civil Rights

The Bethlehem Area School District, in partnership with the home and community, is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment in which each student will attain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become a productive citizen and life-long learner in our technologically demanding and culturally diverse society.

The American commitment to a free society, to individual dignity, to personal liberty, and to equality of opportunity has established the parameters of the educational philosophy held by the Bethlehem Area School District community and entrusted to Freedom High School.

Educationally, this commitment is to be accomplished at Freedom High School by providing instruction which will give each student the opportunity to maximize his/her intellectual, vocational, social, and physical potential in the hope that all will become productive, responsible members of the community, state and nation.

The school recognizes its responsibility to provide an environment where the learning process can be actualized.

Freedom High School believes that the learning process can only be realized by the development of thinking skills – the common thread of education.

The educational program reflects the basic American value of respect for the individual and is structured to provide for the development of individual capacities through the provision of a wide variety of academic and vocational programs.

The motto of Freedom High School is “Excellence in All Things.” This concept embraces many aspects of achievement: there is excellence in academic achievement, vocations/careers, music, dramatics, art,

athletics, crafts and other fields of endeavor. Excellent performance is a blend of native ability, aptitude, motivation, and character and discipline.

One of our major aims is to stimulate self-motivation and discipline which are invaluable to the learning process and to individual attainment.

Responsible citizenship is another important aim of our school. The students are taught that only through individual respect, trust, honesty, concern and cooperation can the school function in a beneficial way for all members of the community. The school, in turn, is dedicated to fairness in application of rules.

The concept of a pluralistic society is developed initially through the emphasis upon the individual and his/her responsibility and importance to the school community and to society as a whole. The school is committed to equality of opportunity for all its diverse elements.

The Bethlehem Area School District/Freedom High School is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. (Title VI, subsection 80.4. Title IX, subsection 86.4 Section 504, subsection 84.5.)

Title VI provides that: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Title IX provides that: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Section 504 provides that: No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Daily Schedule

Schedule Item	Time
Teachers report / Breakfast line closes	7:25 a.m.
Block 1	7:30–9:08 a.m.
Block 2	9:13–10:44 a.m.
Block 3	10:49 a.m.–12:54 p.m.
Lunch A	10:49–11:19 a.m.
Lunch B	11:22–11:52 a.m.
Lunch C	11:52 a.m.–12:22 p.m.
Lunch D	12:24–12:54 p.m.
Block 4	12:59–2:30 p.m.
Teachers dismissed	2:55 p.m.

Academics and Graduation

Graduation Requirements

Required Area	Credits	Recommended Sequence
English	4.0	1.0 credit in Grades 9–12
Social Studies	3.0	1.0 credit in Grades 9–11
Mathematics*	3.0 or 4.0	1.0 credit annually in Grades 9–12
Science*	3.0 or 4.0	1.0 credit annually in Grades 9–12
Physical Education	2.0	0.5 credit annually in Grades 9–12
Health	1.0	0.5 credit in Grades 9 and 10
Computer Science	0.5	May be completed in Grades 9–12
Freshman & Junior Seminar	1.0	0.5 credit in Grades 9 and 11
Arts*	1.0	May be completed in Grades 9–12
General Electives	6.0	May be completed in Grades 9–12
Community Service	0.5	60 hours by graduation
26.0 credits are required for graduation.		

Students must also demonstrate proficiency in Algebra, Literature, and Biology Keystones to graduate.

*** Mathematics and Science:** Students must complete at least 4.0 credits in either Mathematics or Science, resulting in at least 7.0 combined credits across the two subject areas.

*** Arts:** Arts courses include elective courses in the English Department and all courses in the Art, Music, Family and Consumer Science, and Industrial Arts Departments.

Students enrolled in the Vocational-Technical or career course path may, if necessary, replace up to one required credit each in Social Studies, Science, and/or Mathematics with a course aligned to their career goals. Eligibility will be determined by the principal in consultation with the student, parent, guidance counselor, and BAVTS administration (or designee).

Recommended Four-Year Course Sequence

Freedom High School operates on a block schedule. The sample sequence below totals 8.0 credits each year.

Grade 9

Area	Course Options	Credits
English	Honors or English 9; or Academic Literacy	1.0
Social Studies	Honors or U.S. History 2	1.0
Mathematics	Honors or Geometry; Honors or Algebra 1; or Academic Math	1.0

Area	Course Options	Credits
Science	Honors or Biology	1.0
World Language	World Language	1.0
Seminar	Freshman Seminar	0.5
Health / PE	Health 1 and Physical Education	1.0
Computer Science	Computer Science	0.5
Elective	Pathway Elective	1.0

Total credits: 8.0

Grade 10

Area	Course Options	Credits
English	Honors or English 10	1.0
Social Studies	AP Comparative Government; AP World History; AP African American Studies; Honors or Global Studies	1.0
Mathematics	AP or Pre-Calculus; Honors or Algebra 2; or Honors or Geometry	1.0
Science	Honors or Chemistry	1.0
World Language	World Language	1.0
Health / PE	Health 2 and Physical Education	1.0
Arts	Art	1.0
Elective	Pathway Elective	1.0

Total credits: 8.0

Grade 11

Area	Course Options	Credits
English	AP Language and Composition; Honors; or English 11	1.0
Social Studies	AP African American Studies; AP U.S. Government & Politics; or U.S. Government and Economics	1.0
Mathematics	AP or Calculus; AP or Statistics; AP or Pre-Calculus; or Honors or Algebra 2	1.0
Science	AP or Physics; or AP Science course	1.0
World Language	World Language	1.0
Seminar	Junior Seminar: College & Career Financial Literacy	0.5
Physical Education	Physical Education	0.5
Elective	Pathway Elective	1.0
Elective	Elective or Dual Enrollment	1.0

Total credits: 8.0

Grade 12

Area	Course Options	Credits
English	AP Literature and Composition; Honors; or English 12	1.0
Social Studies	AP Macroeconomics; AP U.S. Government; or AP Psychology	1.0
Mathematics	AP or Calculus; AP or Statistics; or Data Science	1.0
Science	AP Science or Science Elective	1.0
Physical Education	Physical Education	0.5
Pathway / Electives	Pathway Elective; Dual Enrollment; or Internship	3.5

Total credits: 8.0

Schedule Changes

Students should select electives carefully with their parents and counselors. Core-subject placement is a joint decision intended to increase achievement and provide the most rigorous appropriate program.

Topic	Guideline
Request process	Student and parent complete a schedule-change request form, available in Counseling (Room 207) or from the classroom teacher.
Valid reason	Changes are considered for valid educational reasons only; lateral moves within the same subject area or requests based on teacher preference will not be approved.
Review	The counselor and assigned teacher review each request.
Quarter course	May not be dropped after the first 5 class days.
Full-semester course	May not be dropped after the first 15 class days.
Full schedule	All students must maintain a full schedule for the entire year.

Course-Withdrawal Record

When the Course Is Dropped	Record
Within 5 days (quarter) or 15 days (semester)	No withdrawal notation on the student record
After those deadlines but before the end of the first quarter	W — Withdrew
After the first marking period	WP — Withdraw Passing, or WF — Withdraw Failing

A course change must be based on academic considerations and supported by a conference/plan developed by the student, parent, teacher, and counselor or grade-level administrator. For English, social studies, mathematics, science, and world language courses, the plan requires tutoring, completion of

required work to date, and a sincere demonstration of effort and ability before a course or course level is dropped.

Grading Scale

All courses use the traditional grading system. Honors and AP courses receive weighted grade-point values.

Grade	Regular	Honors / AP
A+	4.3	5.3
A	4.0	5.0
A-	3.7	4.7
B+	3.3	4.3
B	3.0	4.0
B-	2.7	3.7
C+	2.3	3.3
C	2.0	3.0
C-	1.7	2.7
F	0.0	0.0

Report cards are issued four times each school year. Parents/guardians should retain them permanently, and students are responsible for delivering the report to their parent/guardian.

Honor Roll and GPA

Honor-Roll Requirement	Standard
Quarter GPA	Minimum 3.2000
Citizenship	“S” or better; an “N” makes a student ineligible
Course grades	No failing grade in any course
GPA used	Quarterly GPA only

Honor roll is published after each marking period. Quarterly GPA includes only grades earned during that quarter. The final cumulative GPA shown on the report card includes all final grades from the beginning of Grade 9 through the current final grades.

GPA Examples

Example 1

Course	Grade	Credit	Grade Value
Honors English 11	A	1.0	5.0
Global Studies	B	1.0	3.0
Physics	A	1.0	4.0
Algebra 2	A	1.0	4.0
Concert Choir	A	1.0	4.0
Physical Education	B	0.5	1.5

Example 2

Course	Grade	Credit	Grade Value
English 12	F	1.0	0.0
U.S. Government & Economics	C	1.0	2.0
Environmental Science	F	1.0	0.0
Drafting (Vo-Tech)	B	2.0	6.0
Physical Education	C	0.5	1.0

Co-op, Release, Work Release, and Internships

PLANNING AHEAD These opportunities require advance review and are not guaranteed. Students should begin with their school counselor. Release and work-release approval should normally occur in June-August after schedules are released and finalized. Students who have already met graduation requirements should also discuss whether dual enrollment is a stronger academic option.

Co-op

- Primarily seniors; a junior requires administrative approval. One Block 1 or Block 4 placement is available per semester.
- Requires a career-aligned job averaging at least 15 hours per week, proof of employment, and a training agreement.
- Student must be on track to graduate, including 18 credits by the end of junior year; must have passed all junior-year courses; and must have completed 45 community-service hours.
- Eligibility guideline: no suspensions or Level III infractions during the prior two years, no referrals, fewer than three junior-year lates, and no more than three unexcused absences.
- Enrollment is capped at 40 students per semester. Students failing a senior-year course will be removed and scheduled into another course.

Release

- Seniors only; one block per semester. A student may select Block 1 or Block 4 only once during the year.
- Requires approval by the Student Service Center assistant principal and parent/guardian permission.
- Student must be on track to graduate, have passed all junior-year courses, and have completed 45 community-service hours.
- Eligibility guideline: no suspensions or Level III infractions during the prior two years, no referrals, fewer than three junior-year lates, no senior-year lates, and no more than three unexcused absences.
- Space is limited. Students failing a senior-year course will be removed and scheduled into another course.

Work Release

- Seniors only; may involve more than one block per semester.
- Requires Student Service Center assistant-principal approval, parent/guardian and employer permission, and employer confirmation of a job averaging at least 20 hours per week.
- Student must be on track to graduate, including 20 credits by the end of junior year; must have passed all junior-year courses; and must have completed 50 community-service hours.
- Eligibility guideline: no suspensions or Level III infractions during the prior two years, no referrals, fewer than three junior-year lates, no senior-year lates, and no more than three unexcused absences.
- Space is limited. Students failing a senior-year course will be removed and scheduled into another course.

Internships

- Available to juniors and seniors during any block, depending on the internship.
- Requires approval by the counselor and Career Pathways Liaison and an internship agreement signed by the mentor.
- Student must be on track to graduate and have no more than three unexcused absences.
- No capacity limit is listed in the supplied guidelines, but placement depends on an appropriate internship and completed approvals.

Attendance and Tardiness

The Board of School Directors requires that school-aged pupils who are enrolled in the schools of this district attend school regularly in accordance with the laws of the state. The educational program offered by this district is predicated upon the presence of the pupil and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. Attendance shall be required of all students during the days and hours the school is in session, except for when the principal or teacher excuses a student for temporary absence when they receive satisfactory physical evidence which may reasonably cause the student's absence. The Board considers the following conditions as reasonable causes for absence from school:

- illness
- quarantine
- recovery from accident
- required court appearance
- death in the family

All absences occasioned by the observation of the student's religion on a day approved by the Board as a religious holiday shall be classified as excused. No student so excused shall be deprived of eligibility to compete for an award or the opportunity to make up a test given on that day. Attendance need not always be within the school facilities but a student will be considered to be in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board, or at the place where the student is receiving approved tutorial instruction or health care, or at the place where the student is engaged in an approved, properly supervised work/study or career education program, or at home when the student is receiving approved homebound instruction, dual enrollment. The Board shall consider each student assigned to a program of independent study to be in regular attendance for the program, provided the student is under the guidance of a staff member so assigned and reports weekly to such a staff member the place in which the student is conducting study and regularly demonstrates progress toward the objectives of the course of study. Repeated infractions to Board policy regarding attendance may constitute such misconduct and disobedience as to warrant the suspension or expulsion of the student from the regular school program. The Board authorizes the superintendent to suspend a student from a particular class or from school in accordance with the policies of the Board if sincere efforts by the staff and parents cannot rectify the pattern of absence. The superintendent is authorized to establish the criteria to implement this policy.

Requirements for a Written Parental Explanation for a Student's Legal Absence 1. Parents are required to submit a written explanation for the legal absence of their child within three (3) days from the date of the child's return to school. Failure to provide such a written explanation or failure of the child to present the excuse to the attendance office will result in the absence being declared unexcused and/or unlawful, as provided in section 1329 of the school Laws and Section 113-411 of the School Administrator's handbook (March 20, 1970)

Phone calls by parents to report a child's absence are helpful, however, a written note **MUST** be provided upon returning to school. The absence note should include the full name and grade of the child.

1. The mere fact that a parent provides a written explanation does not qualify the absence as excused. The absence must be for a legal reason as determined by the principal and/or teacher, according to law.
2. When it is known that a parent(s) cannot read or write, the principal may accept a verbal excuse. However, the verbal excuse shall be documented in writing as to the date of the absence, the reason and the name of the parent contacted. This documented note is to be signed by the person from the school who had contacted the parent.

3. In those cases where a child has an excessive number of absences verified only by a verbal communication, a home visit shall be made by the attendance officer and/or the home-school visitor to secure the "mark" of the parent on a written excuse provided by the school.

4. If the dominant language in a student's home is not English and the parents are able to read and write in another language, they shall be required to submit a written explanation in that language, as required in Item 1 above.

The superintendent shall develop procedures for the attendance of students which:

1. Ensure a school session in conformity with requirements of the State Board.
2. Govern the keeping of attendance records in accordance with rules of the State Board.
3. Impose on truant students such incremental disciplinary measures as appropriate for infractions of school regulations, but no such penalty may have an irredeemable negative effect on the student's record beyond that which naturally follows absence from school activities.
4. Identify the habitual truant, investigate the cause(s) of behavior, and consider modification of the educational program.
5. Ensure that students who are excused for any reason have an opportunity to make up work they missed, and
6. Issue written notice to a parent or guardian who failed to comply with the compulsory attendance statute within three days of any proceeding brought under the statute. Such notice shall inform the parent or guardian of the day(s) on which the absence occurred, that the absence was unexcused and in violation of law, that the parent must be notified and informed of liability under law, and that further violations during the school term will be prosecuted without notice.

Upon written request of the parent(s), the Board shall release from attendance a student participating in a religious instruction program acknowledged by the Board. The Board shall not provide transportation to religious instruction. The Board will recognize other justifiable absences for part of the school day. These will include medical or dental appointments, court appearances, or family emergencies. Pennsylvania School Code of 1949

Student absences are generally governed under the definition and authority of Section 1329 of the Pennsylvania School code of 1949. This section permits student's absences to be considered excused in cases of illness, quarantines, recovery from an accident, required court attendance, death in the family, or any "other urgent reason" justifying a temporary absence. Absences covered under Section 1329 must be directly related to the child's inability to attend school due to reasons cited above and not merely for the convenience of the family. Absences will generally be recognized as either cumulative or noncumulative. Refer to the code of conduct for the current BASD attendance policy.

In recent years, there has been an alarming increase in students being late to their classes. Arriving at school and all classes on time is essential for students to mentally prepare for upcoming instruction and participate fully in the learning experience. Indeed, when students are late, they miss out on important information, and in trying to catch up, may struggle to grasp additional concepts throughout the remainder of the lesson. Timeliness also minimizes lesson interruptions and allows students to take part in interactions that provide a sense of belonging in a positive classroom community. When it becomes a habit, punctuality sets up students for academic success and helps prepare them to be responsible and reliable members of the workforce and society at large.

The Bethlehem Area School District is committed to educating the whole child, and to do that most effectively, it is crucial for students to be present in and on time to class. Beginning this school year, Freedom High School will implement the following procedures in an attempt to improve punctuality

1st Late - Teacher conference with student 2nd Late - Student conference AND parent contact (prescribed email/text) 3rd Late - 1st office referral- administrator will contact parent and advise of the potential future consequences (see below) 5th Late - 2nd office referral 8th Late - 3rd office referral

Once a student reaches the level of office referrals, consequences may include, but are not limited to the following potential consequences:

Administrative Detention (lunch detention) Administrative Discretion to revoke privileges such as Homecoming Dance and/or Prom Electronic-device confiscations and returns will be handled under the procedure stated in the Electronic Devices section of this handbook. Loss of Parking permit for a period of time Loss of school privileges (i.e. attending pep rallies, activities, athletic events, participation in sports for a period of time) Restricted movement in hallways In-School-Suspension

Attendance, Eligibility, and School Privileges

School activities, events, leadership positions, parking, transportation, release programs, and other optional opportunities are privileges—not automatic entitlements. A pattern of unexcused late arrivals, unexcused class absences, or unexcused full-day absences constitutes an attendance concern and may result in the restriction, suspension, or revocation of one or more privileges. Administration will determine the appropriate response based on the student's attendance, punctuality, citizenship, academic standing, conduct, the circumstances involved, and applicable district requirements.

The loss of one privilege does not automatically make a student ineligible for every other opportunity or for the remainder of the school year. Students may earn back privileges by demonstrating sustained improvement in attendance, punctuality, conduct, academic progress, and responsible citizenship.

Additionally, the following measures are being taken:

Students arriving late to school after 7:30 a.m. may enter the building only through the Main Entrance and must obtain a late slip before reporting to class. Congregating in hallways and common areas between classes is not permitted. Students are expected to move directly to their next class and comply with staff directions. Defiant, disrespectful, or noncompliant behavior may be referred immediately to Office 101.

Hall Sweeps

Hall sweeps will be conducted periodically throughout the school year and may occur during any instructional block. When the bell rings to begin class, students who remain in the hallways will be directed to the cafeteria to meet with an administrator. Students are expected to report to class before the bell and follow staff directions during a hall sweep.

Lavatory Access During Instructional Blocks

Student lavatories will remain locked during the first ten minutes and the final ten minutes of each instructional block. Students should plan accordingly and use lavatories during the permitted portion of the block. Exceptions may be made for emergencies or when required by a student's documented medical, IEP, or Section 504 needs.

Students are required to attend all scheduled classes and lunch unless previously excused. Freedom High School is a closed campus. Cutting any scheduled time or leaving the building without authorization may result in disciplinary action. See "Lunch and Closed-Campus Expectations" in Student Services and Practical Information for the complete rules.

Appointments for doctors, dentists, and other specialists during school hours must be cleared in advance by the Attendance secretary. If at all possible, appointments should be made for after school hours.

Appointments must be verified by a parent/guardian at the time the student presents the request to Attendance Suite 227. Processing can be expedited if the student obtains written confirmation from the doctor, dentist or specialist (an appointment card issued by many doctors is satisfactory) prior to the administration's approval. If written confirmation is not obtained then a note must be presented. The note must include the following information: full name of student, grade, period 1 class, date, time, reason for appointment (if applicable) and home, office, or business telephone number of parent/guardian. Administration will approve the student's appointment request only if all the above conditions have been satisfied. **NO STUDENT SHALL LEAVE FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITHOUT SECURING PRIOR APPROVAL.** Upon return from the appointment, the student must return to the Attendance Suite Room 227 to sign in. The student must return the original appointment request or other verifying document with the time of the arrival and departure from the appointment, signed by an authorized person at the place of the appointment. It is the responsibility of the student to present to the teacher of the missed or partially missed classes the slip from the office. Failure to do this may result in credit loss.

Unexcused and unlawful absences are addressed in accordance with Pennsylvania compulsory-attendance law, BASD Attendance Policy 204, and the Attendance Guidelines summarized below. For students of compulsory school age, three or more unexcused absences during a school year constitute truancy and trigger the district's required attendance procedures.

Attendance Guidelines

As a BASD community, we know the importance of school attendance. It is our goal to reduce chronic absenteeism to below 10%. Students are not able to achieve their fullest potential when they are not in class. To support our deep commitment to our District priorities of reducing chronic absenteeism and supporting our students in successfully attaining grade level skills, some adjustments have been made to our previous attendance protocols.

Definitions to note: What is regular Attendance? Attending school each day during which school is in session. Students are to attend all sessions unless properly excused by school authorities.

What Is Chronic Absenteeism? When a student misses more than 10 percent of enrolled school days in a school year.

What is truancy? 3 or more unexcused absences during a school year for students of compulsory school age (age 6 - unless enrolled earlier to age 18).

As we continue to emphasize the importance of regular attendance for our students, as well as reduce the overall number of our students chronically absent, we have adjusted the following protocols. As of August 2024, the following will be in place: For any secondary student who is not present for at least 50% of the school day, an absence will accrue. We are asking that you please be cognizant of late arrivals and early releases. If late arrivals and early pick-ups result in missed minutes of a school day greater than these defined protocols, an absence will accrue and a parent/guardian note must be provided to excuse the absence. As per District Policy, a parent note defining an approved reason for missed time will be accepted for up to 10 absences. Beyond 10 absences, a physician's note is required to excuse absences. We require that for ALL late arrivals and early dismissals a note is provided.

For additional details regarding our school attendance policy, please reference policy Attendance Policy #204 - Attendance.

Please note: All non-District sponsored trips must be submitted for approval a minimum of 10 days prior to the trip and PRE-APPROVED by the building principal in order to be excused as per the below guidelines of our Attendance Policy:

Educational Tours and Trips: Elementary Level: Permitted to take four (4) educational trips, up to a cumulative recommended maximum of fifteen (15) school days during their tenure in elementary school.

Educational trips should not exceed five (5) days per a given school year (not to exceed the 15 stated). Middle Level: Permitted to take two (2) educational trips, up to a cumulative recommended maximum of ten (10) school days during their tenure at the middle school level. Educational trips should not exceed five (5) days per year per a given school year (not to exceed the 10 as stated). High School Level: Permitted to take two (2) educational trips, up to a cumulative recommended maximum of ten (10) days during their tenure at the high school level. Educational trips should not exceed five (5) days per year (not to exceed the 10 as stated). The following will be taken into consideration by the principal in granting permission for the trip: The student's academic standing The student's attendance record. The effect the days of absence will have on the student's educational welfare. Exceptional of the request. The application for Permission for Student Excusal due to an Educational Trip or Tour must be submitted to the principal ten (10) days prior to the trip. It will be the student's responsibility to contact teachers and make up assignments missed during the time of the trip. Permission will not be granted for trips/tours during the district's standardized testing period, the state's testing periods, and the secondary examination periods at the end of the first and second semesters. Parental requests that go beyond the number of days or trips allowed must be approved by the building principal. Any days taken beyond the maximum of five (5) days permitted for educational trips in a given year may be considered unexcused and unlawful for students under the age of 18 and unexcused for students 18 years of age and over. Appropriate legal action may be taken where applicable.

Student Conduct and School Safety

Citizenship Expectations

Freedom High School follows the BASD Framework for Citizenship, which promotes a safe, caring, respectful, and inclusive learning community through Universal Values, Excellence, Global Understanding, and Community Service. Students are expected to demonstrate respect, responsibility, integrity, empathy, self-control, perseverance, and care for the rights, safety, learning, and property of others.

Building Access and Door Security

Keeping exterior doors secure is essential to the safety of everyone in the building. Students must never open a locked exterior door to allow another person into the school, regardless of whether the person is known to them. Propping, blocking, or otherwise preventing an exterior door from closing and locking is strictly prohibited and creates a serious safety risk. Except when an authorized adult is actively stationed at another entrance, students may enter the building only through the Main Entrance. Students who violate these expectations may face disciplinary consequences under the Framework for Citizenship.

When concerns arise, staff and administrators may use teaching, conferencing, restorative practices, positive supports, loss of privileges, detention, behavioral plans, suspension, or other appropriate responses. Consequences are individualized and are not an automatic linear sequence.

Community Service

The Community Service and Service Learning Program provides the opportunity for students to serve their community. Students acquire valuable skills and learn about the significance of serving their community, they will gain an understanding of the personal benefits to service. Through their participation in the program, they will be exposed to a variety of people and experiences that will prepare them for life and help them to pursue their career and college pathways.

The Board has the authority to require the inclusion of homework in the grading system for each student in the Bethlehem Area School District.

Appropriate and relevant homework will be required of all students at all grade levels for all academic subjects. Homework will be reflected in the teacher's grading system as identified in the Administrative Guidelines Governing Homework. The inclusion of appropriate homework in other subjects is strongly recommended.

Each School will be responsible to develop its own specific homework requirements in compliance with board policy and district guidelines.

Electronic Devices

POLICY 237 SUMMARY This student- and family-friendly summary reflects BASD Policy 237, Electronic Devices, last revised May 19, 2025. The adopted policy, current administrative regulations, the BASD Framework for Citizenship, and an approved student plan control if this summary differs from an official requirement.

When and Where Use Is Restricted

BASD may restrict personal electronic devices in classrooms and common areas to support learning, safety, academic integrity, equity, and a respectful school environment. Students must follow staff

directions and Freedom High School procedures. Device-related disruption during arrival, dismissal, or district transportation may also result in action under the Framework for Citizenship.

Devices Covered

The policy covers any non-district device capable of calling, messaging, storing or sending data, recording images, audio, or video, or accessing the internet. Examples include cell phones, smartwatches, camera-equipped glasses, tablets, personal laptops, gaming devices, pagers, e-readers, laser pointers, and earbuds or headphones not connected to a district-issued device.

NON-BASD-ISSUED COMPUTERS ARE PROHIBITED: Students are not permitted to use personally owned or other non-BASD-issued laptop or desktop computers at school. Unauthorized computers may create security vulnerabilities and pose a risk to the BASD network. Students must use a BASD-issued computer for school-related computer access.

Approved Exceptions

An exception may be allowed when it is approved in advance by the building principal or designee, including:

- service as an active member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance service, or rescue squad;
- a documented medical, behavioral, disability-related, or emergency need included in an IEP, Section 504 Plan, Individualized Health Plan, emergency plan, or other pre-approved arrangement;
- possession outside instructional hours, subject to school rules and any restrictions at school-sponsored activities; or
- a special event, emergency, or instructional activity specifically authorized by an administrator.

Student and Family Responsibilities

- Students are responsible for securing their own devices. BASD is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage, including while a device is confiscated.
- No student is required to provide a personal device. Families are responsible for any phone, data, or service charges.
- The district does not provide technical support for personal devices beyond general instructions for connecting to district resources.

Violations and Confiscation

Administrators, teachers, and school security personnel may confiscate a device used in violation of Policy 237 or building procedures and promptly deliver it to the administrative office. Under the standard Freedom High School procedure, a device confiscated for a first or second occurrence may be returned directly to the student at the time determined by an administrator. Upon a third or subsequent confiscation, a parent or guardian must come to the school to retrieve the device, and a parent conference may be required. Administration retains discretion to adjust the return procedure or impose additional consequences when warranted by the seriousness of the incident, a student's refusal to comply, safety concerns, repeated or related misconduct, or other relevant circumstances. All decisions remain subject to applicable Board policy, the Framework for Citizenship, and any legally required individual student plan or accommodation.

Pennsylvania Law and Legislative Update

Act 55 of 2024 amended Pennsylvania school-safety grant provisions to permit funding for lockable phone bags or similar secure-storage tools. A school entity receiving funding for that purpose must adopt a policy prohibiting cell-phone use during the school day. Act 55 did not itself create a statewide ban for every school.

As of August 4, 2026, proposals for a statewide bell-to-bell mobile-device policy—including Senate Bill 1014 and House Bill 1814—had passed one chamber but had not completed the legislative process. They are not current law. Their status and any resulting BASD policy changes must be checked again before final publication.

Framework for Citizenship

CURRENT CONDUCT FRAMEWORK This summary is based on the BASD K-12 Student Framework for Citizenship revised in 2023. The complete Framework, current Board policies, applicable law, and a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan control if this handbook summary differs from an official requirement.

BASD's approach combines clear accountability with teaching, restoration, and support. Responses consider the location, frequency, seriousness, and effect of behavior. Consequences are not an automatic linear sequence and may be adjusted to protect safety, repair harm, support student growth, and comply with state and federal disability law.

Four Levels of Student Misconduct

Level I: Classroom-managed behavior that disrupts learning. Staff first use teaching, conferencing, restorative practices, positive supports, detention, contracts, loss of privileges, or other appropriate interventions. Repeated behavior may be referred to an administrator.

Level II: Behavior that disrupts the school community during school, activities, or district transportation. Examples include continued classroom misconduct, unauthorized items, disruptive device use, hall, lavatory, dismissal or activity misconduct, unauthorized class absence, defiance, cheating, and some technology or transportation violations.

Level III: Serious prohibited behavior that may result in suspension. Examples include fighting or assault, threats, harassment or bullying, theft, property damage, controlled substances or alcohol, tobacco or vaping, reckless endangerment, serious technology misuse, and entering an unauthorized area. The exact level depends on the facts and harm involved.

Level IV: Behavior presenting an immediate danger or exceptionally serious harm, including weapons and other serious criminal or safety-related conduct. A student may face suspension and referral to the Superintendent for an expulsion hearing. Pennsylvania weapon provisions may require expulsion for at least one year, subject to the lawful review and modification process.

Major Prohibited Conduct

Depending on the facts, seriousness, frequency, location, and resulting harm, prohibited conduct may include fighting or assault; threats; bullying, harassment, or stalking; theft or property damage; possession, use, sale, or distribution of controlled substances or alcohol; tobacco or vaping; weapons; sexual misconduct; reckless or dangerous conduct; serious technology misuse; gang-related activity; and entering or remaining in unauthorized areas. The full BASD Framework for Citizenship and applicable Board policies control.

Searches of Students and Property

To protect the safety of the school community and enforce school rules, authorized school officials may search a student and the student's belongings when there is reasonable suspicion that the search will reveal evidence of a violation of law, Board policy, or school rules. The scope and manner of any search must be reasonably related to the circumstances and consistent with applicable law and BASD policy. Depending on the circumstances, a search may involve bags, personal belongings, outer clothing, a vehicle parked on school property, or an electronic device when access to that device is legally and administratively authorized.

Lockers, desks, and other school-owned spaces or property may be inspected as permitted by BASD policy and law. Prohibited or unsafe items discovered during an authorized search may be confiscated and may result in disciplinary action and, when appropriate, referral to law enforcement. Searches conducted by a School Resource Officer or other law-enforcement officer are governed by the legal standards that apply to law enforcement.

Vaping, Substance Use, and Safety Monitoring

VAPING AND IMPAIRMENT ARE PROHIBITED: Students may not possess, use, share, sell, or distribute a vape, electronic cigarette, cartridge, vaping liquid, or related device or substance on school property or at a school activity. Students also may not report to or remain at school while under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, a controlled substance, or another intoxicating substance.

A prohibited device or substance may be confiscated. Students suspected of possession, use, or impairment may be referred immediately to an administrator and the school nurse; a parent/guardian will be contacted. Consequences will be determined under the BASD Framework for Citizenship and applicable Board policy and may include loss of privileges, suspension, a Student Assistance Program referral, and any other response required by the circumstances or law.

VAPE DETECTORS AND CAMERAS: Vape detectors are installed in student lavatories. Freedom High School also has more than 200 safety cameras throughout the building, including a camera located outside each student lavatory. Cameras are not located inside lavatories. When a vape detector activates, staff may respond and review available hallway camera footage as part of the investigation. Tampering with or attempting to disable a vape detector or camera is prohibited and may result in additional discipline.

Inclusive Dress Expectations

Student attire must support a safe, diverse, and inclusive environment and may not create a health or safety concern or a hostile or intimidating atmosphere. Enforcement may not oppress or marginalize students based on race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, household income, or body size or type.

- Clothing or accessories may not promote alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances, guns or weapons; display lewd, pornographic, or vulgar content; use hateful, violent, or hostile content; or cause a material school disruption.
- Clothing must cover major areas of the body; see-through or mesh garments require appropriate coverage underneath.
- Caps, hoods, and hats are generally not permitted indoors unless connected to cultural or religious identity, medically required, or authorized by an administrator.
- Appropriate footwear is required unless an authorized activity provides otherwise. Specialized programs may establish safety-related dress requirements.

Discipline, Family Notice, and Due Process

- Before a suspension, the student must be told the reason and given an opportunity to respond, except when immediate action is necessary to protect health, safety, or welfare.
- The school will attempt to notify the parent/guardian promptly of the reason, length, and restrictions associated with a suspension and will provide written confirmation.
- For a suspension longer than three days, the student and parent/guardian are entitled to an informal hearing. The district must offer the hearing within the first five days of the suspension; the student may speak, present witnesses, and question witnesses who are present.
- Students may make up examinations and work missed during suspension under school guidelines.
- An expulsion is an exclusion exceeding ten school days. Unless all parties enter a written waiver and stipulation, expulsion requires a formal hearing with notice of charges and hearing details, access to witness information, the opportunity to question witnesses and present evidence, representation by counsel, and a record of the proceeding.
- Students with disabilities receive all protections required by federal and state law, including applicable procedural and programming safeguards.

Student Services and Practical Information

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a state-mandated program designed to assist school personnel in identifying issues including alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues which pose a barrier to a student's learning and school success. The primary goal of SAP is to help students overcome these barriers in order that they may achieve, remain in school, and advance. Reasons to be concerned and to refer a student: * drug and alcohol use * relationship problems * talk of drug and alcohol use * change in circle of peers/friends * drop in grades * grief due to separation or death * change in appearance * disruptive life changes * loss of interest in activities * violence or safety concerns * disciplinary issues * eating disorder * depression or anxiety * uncontrolled anger * any other concerns that someone may have about a student. The Student Assistance Program...

1. Helps schools identify students who are experiencing behavior and/or academic difficulties, which pose a barrier to learning and success in school. 2. Offers support to those students and their families. 3. Assists in identifying barriers to learning. 4. Mobilizes school and community resources. 5. Assists parents and students to access services. If you would like to make a referral you may contact one of the Guidance Counselors, SSC Administrator, or SAP Coordinator. Referrals are online, and can be found on the school's website. All referrals are confidential.

Bullying and Cyberbullying

Freedom High School takes bullying and cyberbullying seriously. Students and families should report concerns promptly to a teacher, school counselor, administrator, or other trusted school employee. Reports will be addressed under applicable BASD policy and the Framework for Citizenship. Students should seek adult help rather than retaliate physically. The complete BASD Bullying/Cyberbullying policy and parent/guardian guidance are referenced in the Appendix.

Library and Study Hall

The library is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except on Fridays when it closes at the end of the school day. During the 2026-2027 school year, the library will serve as the primary location for study hall. The library also contains two classrooms, the Immersive Learning Center, several staff offices, and a conference room used for IEP meetings.

The library is the primary location for obtaining or returning a loaner Chromebook. Students who need this service should see Mr. Burke in the library. Students with IEPs may also use the library as a resource when that support is provided in their IEP.

Students coming to or leaving the library are required to have an authorized pass at all times. Students must follow all library and study-hall procedures. Food and drinks are not permitted in the library. Any food or drink must be left behind the Circulation Desk upon entry and may be retrieved when the student leaves.

Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications

Families may apply for free or reduced-price school meals at any time during the school year. A new application must be submitted each school year, and approved eligibility applies only for the current school year. Only one application per household is needed, even when children attend different BASD schools.

Families may apply online through [SchoolCafé](#) (preferred), through Pennsylvania [COMPASS](#), or by completing the paper application available on the [BASD Meal Application Information page](#). A completed

paper application may be returned to the student's school or sent or delivered to BASD Dining Services, Northeast Middle School, 1170 Fernwood Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018.

Lunch and Closed-Campus Expectations

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION IS REQUIRED: Every student must scan their BASD-issued student ID card or provide their student ID number when receiving a meal or purchasing any cafeteria item. This requirement applies to all students, including those who receive free or reduced-price meals.

Cafeteria Conduct and Cleanliness

Students are responsible for leaving their eating area clean at the conclusion of lunch. Before leaving the table, each student must dispose of all trays, food, garbage, bottles, and other items in the appropriate locations. Nothing should be left on or beneath the table. Clean up after yourself and help keep the cafeteria safe, orderly, and welcoming for everyone.

The cafeteria and serving lines are monitored by multiple cameras. Taking food, beverages, or another person's property without paying or without permission is theft and will be referred to an administrator. Throwing food, starting or participating in food fights, misusing cafeteria items, or encouraging disruptive or immature behavior is prohibited. Students who engage in these behaviors may be required to pay for stolen or damaged items, clean the affected area, lose cafeteria or other school privileges, and receive additional disciplinary consequences under the Framework for Citizenship. Serious or repeated incidents may result in further administrative action.

CLOSED CAMPUS — STUDENTS MAY NOT LEAVE THE BUILDING: Students are not permitted to leave the building at any time without prior administrative authorization. The only students permitted to leave as part of their regular schedule are those scheduled to attend BAVTS during Block 3 or those approved for Release, Co-Op, or Dual Enrollment. Any student who leaves the building without authorization may face disciplinary action.

REMAIN IN THE CAFETERIA: During an assigned lunch period, students must remain in the cafeteria. A student may leave only to use the lavatory or when the student has a pre-arranged pass. Students may not leave the cafeteria for any other reason without staff authorization.

NO FOOD-DELIVERY SERVICES: Students are not permitted to order or receive food from any commercial food-delivery service. Food ordered in violation of this rule will be confiscated, and the student may face additional disciplinary consequences.

Health Center and Medication

Services and first aid. The certified school nurse provides health services that help students remain ready to learn. Services include vision and hearing screening, height and weight measurements, assistance with medical examinations, maintenance of medical and dental records, and first aid for emergencies occurring during school hours. The nurse determines whether an illness requires a student to be sent home.

Medication. Medication may be administered during the school day only when a medication-authorization form signed by the physician and parent/guardian is on file and the medication has been brought to school as required. The nurse will arrange for the student to be released from class, and the student is responsible for reporting to the Health Center at the scheduled time.

Returning after illness. Students excluded for a contagious disease must remain home for the prescribed period and provide any required medical release before returning to class.

Emergency contacts and outside care. Families should report telephone-number changes to Student Services and the Health Center. The school health room does not replace a primary medical or dental provider. Families without a physician, dentist, or clinic may contact the school nurse for assistance locating one.

Transportation Expectations

Safe conduct. BASD provides transportation to eligible high school students in accordance with district rules. Students must use their assigned bus or other authorized transportation and follow directions from the driver, attendant, administrator, or other authorized staff member. Safe and respectful conduct is required at bus stops, while boarding or exiting, and throughout the ride. Students must remain seated, keep aisles clear, keep hands, feet, and belongings within their personal space, use appropriate language and voice levels, keep the bus clean, and wait for the vehicle to stop before boarding or exiting.

Camera and audio monitoring. All school buses are equipped with cameras that record video and sound. Recordings may be reviewed to investigate safety concerns, vaping or substance-related behavior, harassment, fighting, property damage, inappropriate language, failure to follow directions, or other reported misconduct. Tampering with or attempting to block, disable, or damage recording equipment is prohibited and may result in additional consequences.

Transportation is a privilege. Vaping, possessing prohibited substances or items, throwing objects, fighting, threatening others, damaging property, distracting the driver, and other unsafe or disruptive conduct are prohibited. Violations may result in consequences under the Framework for Citizenship and temporary suspension or permanent revocation of bus privileges when necessary to protect student and driver safety. Administration retains discretion to determine the appropriate response based on the circumstances and applicable district requirements.

Student Lockers

Lockers are available throughout the building but are not automatically assigned to students. A student who would like a locker should contact Office 207, where a guidance secretary can assist with requesting and receiving a locker assignment.

Student Parking and Registration

All students who drive to school **MUST** register their vehicle in office 101. In order to park a car on campus students must provide their registration, the year, make, and model and color of your car. You will receive a parking permit that is to be displayed in a location that can be easily seen. Students must register within the first two weeks of school in office 101 with Mrs. DeJesus. If you change vehicles, it is your responsibility to inform Office 101 of the changes.

Lost and Found

Students should report lost items to the teacher-in-charge or to the high school main office. Any article found should be turned into the main office.

Student Insurance

Insurance brochures, which thoroughly explain the policy, are sent home with each student at the beginning of the school year. Subscription is not mandatory, but it should not be noted that students planning to take part in the athletic program are required to have insurance.

Student Records and Privacy

The Student Records Policy of the Bethlehem Area School District recognizes that collecting, maintaining, and disseminating data to assist students in present and future endeavors must be done in a way that will not impinge upon the student's privacy or other rights and acknowledges the rights of the student and his or her parents or guardian to be informed of what is recorded. Contained below is information from the policy which should be understood by students and parents.

The student, former student, and parent or guardian of a dependent student has the right to:

- examine the contents of the record in the presence of the principal or other designated professional staff member.
- privacy of the record in most cases (exceptions listed under "Miscellaneous, No. 5")
- add verified and relevant information to the record
- submit a statement concerning the appropriateness of validity of material in the record.
- challenge information in the record and to have it corrected or deleted (via the principal or subsequent appeal to superintendent, or finally, through a due process hearing)
- direct (via written consent) the school to share specified record information with others
- be notified of the school's compliance with judicial orders which require the school to provide student record information 8. be given a copy of record information releases to another school system in which the student is presented for enrollment.
- Typically, the student cumulative record includes: certification of name and date of birth, specifics on achievement, evaluation, and attendance, health data, standardized test or inventory results, and other basic information of identification and student progress.
- Other information or documents may be added if they are verified and considered to be relevant and in the best interest of the student. The above, including comments or other narratives, which become part of a student's cumulative file must be dated and include the signature of the author.
- Collection and maintenance of data such as the above is authorized by the Board of School Directors as representatives of the student and parents. Collection and maintenance of more private or personal information (e.g. personality assessment, ethnic origin, or family relations) will occur only with informed individual consent of the student and parent or guardian.
- Periodically, student records are screened to remove irrelevant, outdated or improper materials.
- In addition to the student, former student, and parent or guardian of a dependent student, information from the student record may be made accessible without the consent of the student and/or parent or guardian: a. to members of the professional staff and their clerical support for legitimate educational interest. b. to the State Board of Education. c. for research purposes where the likelihood of identifying any individual is negligible. d. when required by law or judicial order. NOTE: The date of access and the name of the person or agency given access to student information, with or without student/parent consent, will be recorded.
- Working notes or memory aids by staff members (e.g. teacher grade books or counseling notes) are not entered into a student's record and are not to be released to others.
- Other documents such as psychological reports or agency reports (obtained through individual consent) are not included in the cumulative file of students. Information from and interpretation of such reports are available to student/parents upon request.
- Lists identifying names and addresses of students are not released except for PTO use.

It is the school district's intention to inform the student and parent of what is contained in the student's record and to preserve the privacy of such information.

Student or parent requests to examine student records will be accommodated within one week of the request. Contact the principal or counselor. The school welcomes the opportunity to review a student's record with the student and parent or guardian.

Parents who wish for a copy of the complete Student Records Policy or have any questions should contact their child's guidance counselor.

Several times a year the opportunity arises for students to deliver speeches to their peers or to the faculty. Speeches may be given when students are attempting to secure an office within their class or within the Student Government, when seeking the position of class-chosen or faculty-chosen speaker for commencement, or others.

When delivering a speech to an audience, students must adhere to the guidelines set forth by either a class advisor and/or the administration. Such guidelines may include, but are not limited to the following:

All speeches must be written out thoroughly ahead of time and given to the appropriate faculty member or administrator for his or her perusal. Once a speech has been approved for delivery, the student giving the speech may not deviate from that speech. Students who deviate from their approved speech will forfeit any position for which they seek. Administration has the authority to make a final decision regarding the content of the speech. Anything deemed inappropriate by the administration will not be permitted.

Two students will represent the class at the Commencement Ceremony. One class speaker will be selected by the faculty and one will be selected by the senior class. The valedictorian will be recognized and will lead the class during the Commencement Ceremony but will not be guaranteed to speak at graduation.

The criteria for class speaker will remain as follows:

1. A member of the senior class who has a cumulative academic average of 3.5 or higher and a cumulative satisfactory citizenship record.
2. Any member of the senior class and who has a satisfactory conduct record.

Note: To be Commencement Speaker or a nominee for Commencement speaker, a senior must have a final grade of "S" in grades 9,10, and 11 and must have a satisfactory cumulative grade at the end of the third marking period.

Students interested in applying for either faculty or student speaker must complete an application form, which will be made available to students at the start of the second semester.

Student Leadership and Activities

The Student Council of Freedom High School is an elected representative body of the student population. It attempts to monitor student opinions and objectives; consolidate and refine student thought; and articulate the majority student view to the administration and faculty.

Freedom High School's Student Council consists of four (4) officers elected by the student body and five (5) class officers elected by each of the four classes. Officers for 2026-2027 are as follows:

Student Council Position	Student
Senior Student Body President	Leah Majumdar
Senior Student Body Vice President	Nylbern Rivera
Junior Student Body President	Mariyah Russell
Junior Student Body Vice President	Audrey Vennemann

Student Council Advisors

Role	Advisors
Student Council Faculty Advisors	Ms. Corinne Salter and Mr. Michael Cleffi

Eligibility and conduct. Student Council officers, representatives, and class officers must maintain a satisfactory citizenship record. A student who is not performing satisfactorily may be removed from office by an administrator upon an advisor's recommendation. Freshmen elect their class officers in September.

Meetings. Student Council holds general meetings every Wednesday before school at 7:00 a.m. Class officers coordinate additional meeting times with their advisors.

Attendance. Each member is permitted one unexcused meeting absence. A second results in parent/guardian contact; a third may result in an advisor's recommendation to the principal for removal. A senior running for a Student Council officer position, excluding representative, must have at least one year of prior Student Council experience.

Class Advisors

Graduating Class	Faculty Advisors
2027	Ms. Graceanne Ruggiero and Mr. Joseph Mozingo
2028	Mrs. Carmen Cespedes
2029	Ms. Victoria DePaulo and Ms. Lauren Lalik
2030	Mr. Aaron Ackley and Ms. Amanda Nicolosi

Class Officers

Class	Office	Student
2027	President	Brody Stellato
2027	Vice President	Luke Twigg
2027	Secretary	Maliyah Horvath
2027	Treasurer	Kathryn Nenna
2027	Historian	Pallo Odotte
2028	President	Miles Rieger
2028	Vice President	Kayden Taylor
2028	Secretary	Lucas Yaguez
2028	Treasurer	Autumn Outler
2028	Historian	Julia Fiorini
2029	President	Amani Ali
2029	Vice President	Andrew Dieter
2029	Secretary	Brandon Rivera
2029	Treasurer	Alicia Reis
2029	Historian	Juan Puentes
2030	All offices	To be determined in fall 2026

Class dues per year will be collected by the Class Advisors of each class. Dues must be paid in full for all students to attend prom, and participate in senior activities. Checks for class dues should be made payable to Freedom High School & the appropriate class.

A senior student from Freedom High School and a senior from Liberty High School are selected to serve as a student representative to the Board of School Directors for a period of one year. The student representative is responsible for advocating for student interests, maintaining communication between students and school authorities, collaborating with other student leaders, proposing initiatives for improvement and engaging with the community. The students serve in an advisory capacity and have an opportunity to participate in public sessions of the Board of School Directors. They are appointed by student council advisors as rising juniors and serve in an alternate capacity during their junior year.

Student School Board Representatives

Role	Student
2026-2027 Student School Board Representative	Charlotte Korrapati
2026-2027 Alternate Student School Board Representative	Kensington Matol

Varsity Athletic Awards

An athlete must satisfy fully the requirements in any one of the sports listed below, and complete the season, to become eligible for a varsity athletic award:

- **BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL**- An athlete must participate in one-half the number of the scheduled innings. The lone exception of this is that of the pitcher, who must participate in the equivalent of three (3) full games or 21 innings.
- **BASKETBALL- BOYS AND GIRLS**- An athlete must participate in one-half of the number of quarters of the scheduled games.
- **CHEERLEADERS**- Cheerleaders must cheer at all required athletic contests for one (1) complete season.
- **CROSS COUNTRY**- An athlete must place in at least 50% of the number of meets (in dual meets top 10, triangular top 15, and quadrangular top 20)
- **FIELD HOCKEY**- An athlete must complete 50% of the total number of halves.
- **FOOTBALL**- An athlete must participate in 50% percent of the quarters of the scheduled games.
- **GOLF**- An athlete must compete in 75% of the scheduled matches and must score in 50% of these matches.
- **RIFLE**- An athlete must compete in 75% of the scheduled matches.
- **SOCCER**- An athlete must compete in 50% of the total number of halves of the scheduled games.
- **SWIMMING-BOYS AND GIRLS**- an athlete must compete in 75% of the meets and earn 25 points in interscholastic competition.
- **TENNIS- BOYS AND GIRLS**- An athlete must participate in 75% of the matches.
- **SPRING TRACK- BOYS AND GIRLS**- An athlete must earn fifteen(15) points in interscholastic competition.
- **VOLLEYBALL- BOYS AND GIRLS**- An athlete must participate in 75% of the scheduled varsity games.
- **WRESTLING**- An athlete must either participate in 75% of the matches or earn eighteen (18) points in dual meets.
- **STUDENT MANAGER**- A certificate and a sport pin will be awarded to an individual who has successfully completed two (2) years as a student manager to a junior varsity or varsity athletic team.
- The first time an award is won, the winner shall be given a chenille letter and a sport pin. Note: Only one (1) chenille letter will be awarded to an individual during his/her high school career. Any subsequent awards in a sport will be a sports specific lapel pin.
- A special award for outstanding achievement shall be a statuette with a school seal known to the Freedom High School students as "The Patriot Award". This award will be given upon recommendation of the Director of Athletics and or Head Coach. Criteria to receive "The Patriot Award" is defined as:

Criteria To Receive "The Patriot Award".

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL- Individual; None; Team; District Champions

BASKETBALL- BOYS AND GIRLS- Individual; named to All- State; Team; District Champions

CROSS COUNTRY- Individual; District Champion or All-State; Team; District Champion

FIELD HOCKEY- Individual; All-State; Team; District Champions

FOOTBALL- Individual; All-State Team; District Champion

GOLF- Individual; District Champion or All-State (top 10); Team: Lehigh Valley Conference.

RIFLE- Individual; None; Team: League Champion

SOCCER- Individual; All-State; Team: District Champion

SWIMMING- BOYS AND GIRLS- Individual: District Champion or All-State (top 8); Team: District Champion

TENNIS- BOYS AND GIRLS- Individual: District Champion or All-State (top 4); Team: District Champion

SPRING TRACK- BOYS AND GIRLS- Individual: District Champion or All-State (top 6); Team; District Champion

VOLLEYBALL- BOYS AND GIRLS- Individual; None; Team: District Champions

WRESTLING- Individual; District or Regional Champion, State Champion (place in top 8); Team; District Champions

4. An athlete who does not fully satisfy any one of the specific requirements mentioned may be recommended by the respective coach for the varsity award for meritorious service.

"Making Sure You Are Eligible to Participate in College Sports" Core Courses NCAA Division I requires 16 core courses. NCAA Division II currently requires 14 core courses. Division II will require 16 core courses for students enrolling on or after August 1, 2013. See the charts below. NCAA Division I will require 10 core courses to be completed prior to the seventh semester (seven of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science that meet the distribution requirements below). These 10 courses become "locked in" at the seventh semester and cannot be retaken for grade improvement.

--Beginning August 1, 2016, it will be possible for a Division I college-bound student-athlete to still receive athletics aid and the ability to practice with the team if he or she fails to meet the 10 course requirement, but would not be able to compete.

Test Scores Division I uses a sliding scale to match test scores and core grade-point averages (GPA). The sliding scale for those requirements is shown on Page No. 2 of this sheet. Division II requires a minimum SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68. The SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes only the critical reading and math sections. The writing section of the SAT is not used. The ACT score used for NCAA purposes is a sum of the following four sections: English, mathematics, reading and science.

--When you register for the SAT or ACT, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of 9999 to ensure all SAT and ACT scores are reported directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores that appear on transcripts will not be used.

Grade-Point Average Be sure to look at your high school's List of NCAA Courses on the NCAA Eligibility Center's website (www.eligibilitycenter.org). Only courses that appear on your school's List of NCAA Courses will be used in the calculation of the core GPA. Use the list as a guide. Division I students enrolling full time before August 1, 2016, should use Sliding Scale A to determine eligibility to receive athletics aid, practice and competition during the first year. Division I GPA required to receive athletics aid and practice on or after August 1, 2016, is 2.000 (corresponding test-score requirements are listed on Sliding Scale B on Page No. 2 of this sheet). Division I GPA required to be eligible for competition on or after August 1, 2016, is 2.300 (corresponding test-score requirements are listed on Sliding Scale B on

Page No. 2 of this sheet). The Division II core GPA requirement is a minimum of 2.000. Remember, the NCAA GPA is calculated using NCAA core courses only.

Division I 16 Core Courses

4 years of English. 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher). 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school). 1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science. 2 years of social science. 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)

Division II 16 Core Courses (2013 and After) 3 years of English. 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher). 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school). 3 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science. 2 years of social science. 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)

Clubs and Organizations

1. All clubs and organizations must submit a budget by October 31 to the Office of the Director of Extra Curricular Activities setting forth projected expenditures, special projects and anticipated sources of income. 2. All sales and solicitations by school related organizations must have prior approval by the Co-Directors of Extra Curricular Activities and the Principal. Sale of Candy in the school is prohibited unless specifically approved by the Principal. 3. All money collected and disbursed by a school related activity must be handled through or pay bills out of cash on hand. All money must be deposited with and bills presented to the financial secretary for payment by check out of the organization's account. 4. No signs are to be posted by any club or organization on the tile walls of the school. Signs may be posted on all glass areas (except main entrance doors and main office) and the stairwells. NOTE: This regulation is qualified for the Student Council having administrative permission to use the tile walls for display purposes to promote general school spirit. 5. The bulletin board in the main lobby is for current school related news or announcements only. Personal notices are prohibited and will be removed.

AEVIDUM (ah-vee'-dum) **Purpose:** DRIVEN BY VISION-POWERED BY VOICE-UNIFIED IN ACTION Aavidum is a student-led organization dedicated to the prevention, awareness, & de-stigmatization of suicide, depression, and other mental health illnesses. This organization is run by a student board of directors anchored in the belief of shared responsibility in support of this cause, so strive to form partnerships with other student groups and faculty members, to establish and support programs/activities that promote a whole-school environment in which everyone feels accepted, appreciated, cared for, and acknowledged. Aavidum service-learning opportunities at Freedom include: Peer Tutoring Program and Freedom Friends - a positive peer support group & mentoring/leadership training program). **Meetings:** TBA **Faculty Advisor:** Michaela Ott

American Sign Language Club

Purpose: Create a fun, respectful and inviting atmosphere for all students to share their passion of the Deaf Community. Exposure to ASL is not necessary. ASL Club members will have the opportunity to become advocates and bridge the gap between hearing and Deaf communities, spread awareness of ASL, Deaf history and culture throughout the Freedom, BASD and Lehigh Valley communities. Members will develop a strong sense of inclusion. Benefits: Being a Member of the Freedom High School ASL Club, students will gain a wealth of knowledge about ASL, deafness and Deaf culture. They will spread Deaf awareness and become strong advocates for the hearing and Deaf communities through fundraising, community outreach, peer tutoring, and immersion opportunities. **Meetings:** Mondays, 2:30 – 3:15, Room 132 **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Kimberly Elliott

Anime Club

Purpose: To provide a forum for students interested in Japanese Animation and Manga: to watch, draw and discuss the genre, as well as go to conventions, exhibits and book signings. Open to all students. **Meetings:** Tuesdays, 2:30-4:10pm, Room 118 **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Cameron Parker

Art Club

Purpose: To provide new art and other cultural experiences for Freedom High School students. Students will have opportunities to experiment with mediums and techniques that they may not be exposed to in their regular classroom setting; as well as visiting local galleries and businesses that contribute to the Arts. Any student interested in the Arts. **Meetings:** Wednesday, 2:45-4 00 PM, Room 201 **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Lauren Ackerman and Mr. Michael Reenock

Asian Heritage Club

Purpose: **Meetings:** **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. David Miller

Athletes In Action (Formerly Special Olympics)

Purpose: An after-school club designed for FHS students who participate in school based Special Olympics events. The club meets one Thursday each month from 2:30–3:45 p.m. and partners with FHS athletic teams to practice sport-specific skills, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. Through inclusive activities and peer mentoring, student-athletes build confidence, strengthen athletic abilities, develop social connections, and foster school spirit while preparing for Special Olympics competitions. **Meetings:** One Thursday a month (2:45-3:45), Room: coffee shop, specific dates TBA, see weekly news and announcements **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Melissa Hamm and Mrs. Bridget Hujisa

Buddies Helping Buddies

Purpose: An inclusive club that brings together students with disabilities and their general education peers to build meaningful friendships and strengthen social skills. The club meets one Thursday each month from 2:30–3:45 p.m., providing a fun and supportive environment where students participate in crafts, games, team-building activities, and enjoy snacks together. Through shared experiences, members develop communication, collaboration, empathy, and a sense of belonging while creating lasting connections across the school community. Open to all students. **Meetings:** One Thursday a month (2:45-3:45), Room 302 specific dates TBA, see weekly news and announcements **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Melissa Hamm

Chess Club

Purpose: To practice and operate competitive chess and complete in the Lehigh Valley Chess Conference. Membership All students in grades 9 through 12. **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Peter Gingrich

Crochet Club

Purpose: Crochet Club is to open doors for people by letting them learn a new craft and make friends in a judgment-free space. **Meetings:** Wednesdays in Room 122 (2:30-4:00pm) **Faculty Advisor:** Mrs. Jamie Toohey

Dance Team

Purpose: Promote school spirit, unity, and excellence through performance and dedication. We aim to inspire passion for dance while fostering a supportive environment that encourages teamwork, discipline, creativity, and personal growth. By representing our school at events and community functions, we strive to showcase our talent, commitment, and pride. Benefits: Being a part of the dance team offers students a variety of valuable benefits, both on and off the floor. Members develop strong teamwork and leadership skills, improve physical fitness and coordination, and gain confidence through public performance. The team also provides opportunities for lasting friendships, time management growth, and school involvement, creating a well-rounded high school experience. Tryouts: August Practices: 2:30 - 3:45pm in the aerobics room or gymnasium *Meeting Days will vary based on student availability **Faculty Advisor:**

Debate Team

Purpose: This competitive group focuses on relevant, important world issues and argues for solutions to those problems. The team meets after school all school-year round and travels to compete against several area schools during October and November, during the school day. Students looking into careers in law,

politics, business, and anything that requires quick thinking and presentation skills are encouraged to join the team. No prior experience is necessary. Roles on the team include speaking, questioning, researching, and observing. **Meetings:** Mondays and Thursdays, 2:30pm Rm 602 **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Anna Marmaros

DECA

Purpose: Prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and Management in high schools and colleges around the globe. Compete in role-play and project events centered around the careers clusters of marketing, business management and administration, finance, and hospitality and tourism. **Meetings:** TBA – Room 814 **Faculty Advisor:** Mrs. Kristin Spang

Engineering Club

Purpose: To provide time and guidance for engineering homework help, entry into STEM and engineering competitions, PLTW program promotion, grant-writing and project completion. **Meetings:** TBA/Weekly Room 203 **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Jaime Bothwell

F.E.A.T. (Freedom's Environmental Awareness Team) **Purpose:** The goal of F.E.A.T. is to enhance the student's knowledge and appreciation of their environment. Students are responsible for maintaining the courtyard and monitoring the recycling program. In addition, students perform community service activities and participate in an environmental competition. F.E.A.T is open to all Freedom High School students with an interest in the environment. **Meetings:** Most Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 143 **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Eric Baltz

Freedom Forum

Purpose: The Freedom Forum is the news center of Freedom High School. We produce the weekly broadcasts, run the morning announcements, run a social media account, create podcasts, along with publishing a print and online newspaper, with a special senior edition at the end of the year. Members of the Freedom Forum can do anything from write, interview, present, edit, and design. If you are interested in communications, broadcasting, any job that requires writing, graphic design, film, video editing, business, law, teaching, any many more career fields, then participating in The Freedom Forum can give you experiences and skills that will look great on college applications and to future employers. As a contributor to the Forum, you also get to be more involved in all the things that are happening at Freedom High School and give a voice to your own perspective but the perspectives of your classmates. **Meetings:** TBD, 2:30 PM, Room 602 **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Anna Marmaros

Freedom Readers

Purpose: Meeting: **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Ashley Thomsen

French Club

Purpose: To provide a learning and social activity for students interested in the French culture and an opportunity to share it with the community at large. Open to all students interested in the subject. **Officers:** Elected at first meeting in September **Special Projects:** Games, field trips, Mardi Gras celebration with middle school, Christmas Carol singing, movie day and cultural presentation in Spring. **Faculty Advisor:** Mrs. Sarah Johnson

Purpose: Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) The mission of FBLA is to “inspire and prepare students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences.” Freedom students will select a competitive event in which they

will take a test, participate in a performance or create a unique artifact/presentation related to their business topic of choice. Our Freedom students will compete against students from other schools. The events are first held at the regional level and then the winners at the regional level will compete at the State Leadership Conference. From there, the top winners in each state go on to compete at the national level. Along with competing in business related events, the students will be exposed to various professional workshops and speakers and have a great opportunity for networking with their peers, college admissions personnel, and working professionals in various business industries. **Meetings:** The club meets bi-weekly on either Tuesday or Thursday in room 808. Advisor: Mr. Erik Dennis and Mr. Robert Petrosky

Garden Club

Purpose: Freedom High School's Garden Club's mission is to educate students about gardening, sustainability, and environmental responsibility while fostering teamwork and school beautification. It provides hands-on learning experiences, promotes conservation efforts, and encourages community involvement through gardening projects. The club also serves as a space for students to connect, develop leadership skills, and take pride in their school environment. **Meetings:** Library for initial meetings, work will be done in the courtyard and garden by the parking lot. The club meets every Wednesday from 2:30-4:15pm, weather permitting. Advisor: Mrs. Krystel Oleksza

Gender And Sexuality Alliance (Gsa) Club

Purpose: To provide students the opportunity to create a safe, welcoming, and accepting school environment for all youth, regardless of sexual Orientation or gender identity. GSA's provide a supportive environment for lesbians, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students, as well as those who are perceived by others to be LGBT, are questioning their identity, have LGBT friends or family members, or just care about LGBT issues. GSA's help students work towards making schools safer for all students by providing support, educating others in their school about LGBT issues, and engaging in political activities like the National Day of Silence. GSA's also allow LGBT and straight students to cooperatively address issues that affect all students. Open to all Students. **Meetings:** Thursdays 2:30-4:10pm, Room 118
Faculty Advisor: Mr. Cameron Parker

German Club

Purpose: To provide a learning experience and social activity for students interested in the culture of German people. Those who are studying or have studied German at Freedom High School. **Meetings:** To be determined **Special Projects:** Oktoberfest, making Gingerbread houses, participating in a carol sign at the Sun Inn, Karneval and a German Dinner. **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Max Kraft

International Leadership Club

Purpose: To provide leadership opportunities, a learning experience and social activity for students interested in Latino culture. Open to all interested students. **Meetings:** Bi-monthly, to be determined on the basis of members schedules. **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Jonathan Brones

Leo Club

Purpose: **Meetings:** **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Kathy Duelley

Math Team

Purpose: **Meetings:** **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Jeffrey Young

Medical Club

Purpose: Students interested in the medical field gather to listen to guest speakers, engage in service projects, and potentially prepare for HOSA – Future Health Professionals competitions. Open to all students. **Meetings:** TBA **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Graceanne Ruggiero and Ms. Corinne Salter

Naacp Fhs Chapter

Purpose: Open to all students, NAACP chapters offer leadership development, mentorship, and college-readiness opportunities while promoting cultural awareness. Through sharing experiences and discussing relevant issues, students build the skills and confidence needed to drive positive change in their schools and communities. **Meetings:** Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30PM, Room 220 **Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Denisha Bolden

National Honor Society

Purpose: As a local chapter of the nationally recognized organization, FHS NHS promotes and cultivates the values of scholarship, service, leadership, and character within the Freedom Family. Members are invited to join the organization in either their junior or senior year based on their dedication to their education, service to the community, involvement in school activities, and personal citizenship. Accepted members lead the student body by example and run multiple service projects throughout the school year. **Meetings:** Room 210 **Special Projects:** Introduction Ceremony and Community Service Projects. **Faculty Advisors:** Mr. Robert Webb

Pen & Ink Magazine

Purpose: To give students a chance to have their literary or art work displayed and recognized in a quality publication. To take active part in the production of the magazine. Any student with literary or art talent and ability or genuine interest in the subject. **Meetings:** Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30 PM, Room 603 **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Michael Dunstan

Photography Club

Purpose: To provide Freedom High School students with a creative and respectful atmosphere to share their passion for photography. Students participate in club wide digital photo challenges and prompts. Students will look at and discuss each other's work. Students will also experience methods in the darkroom and mixing mediums. **Meetings:** Room 122 **Faculty Advisor:** Mrs. Jennifer Mueller

Robotics Club

Purpose: **Meetings:** **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Walter Bothwell

SADD

Purpose: This group aims to educate the student population concerning constructive decisions about the areas of a teens life where major decisions will have to be made that may have far-reaching consequences. Major topic areas include distracted driving, alcohol/drug use, suicide, leadership, violence and conflict resolution. General school population **Meetings:** TBA **Officers:** President- Elected during the school year. **Faculty Advisor:** Mrs. Nicolette Guerra

Scholastic Scrimmage

Purpose: To promote an opportunity to enhance learning and mental quickness and enjoy academic camaraderie. This club is open to all students. The team, chosen from the club, will be able to compete on

television of the PBS Scholastic Scrimmage Competition at Channel 39. In the Fall the team competes for seven weeks in the Lehigh Valley Scholastic Conference. In spring students compete at the IU 20 Competition in Easton. The Scholastic Scrimmage Club also hosts FAB, the Freedom Academic Bowl, an 8 team intra-school scholastic competition, open to the entire student body held in April. Open to all students. **Meetings:** Mondays and Fridays- 2:30- 4:00 PM, Room 230 **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Michael Evans

Science Fair

Purpose: Working individually or on a team, students design and conduct their own experiments on a branch and topic of science that interests them. They then need to present their project findings at several competitions, where they can compete for awards, scholarships, and cash prizes. Open to all students.

Meetings: TBA **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Graceanne Ruggiero

Ski Club

Purpose: To increase student interest in skiing and snowboarding and to help students improve their skills and develop an appreciation for the sport. Ski club also seeks to engage students in the sport who have never tried skiing or snowboarding because of financial reasons by offering scholarships and lessons as needed. **Meetings:** TBA **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Joshua Centeno

Songwriting Club

Purpose: A safe, nonjudgemental and supportive space for students to express their authentic voices through the art of songwriting. We will engage in both individual and collaborative activities together, exploring various tools and tricks to write a meaningful song. No experience necessary - all are welcome.

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 2:30PM **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Julia Melito

Spanish Club

Purpose: To have students explore and enjoy the Spanish language and culture through various Activities, crafts, music, food and experiences. **Meetings:** Wednesdays from 2:45 -3:45 PM **Faculty Advisor:** Mrs. Carmen Cespedes

Stem Empowerment Society

Purpose: Young women interested in STEM are encouraged to participate in this service and experience club. Students can participate in community projects, mentor and support younger BASD students, network with STEM professionals, and attend exciting opportunities in our community. **Meetings:** Room 160, Day to be Determined **Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Carrie Garippa

Step Club

Purpose: **Meetings:** **Faculty Advisor:**

Table Top Club

Purpose: **Meetings:** **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Max Kraft and Mr. Brendan Burke

Theatre Company

Purpose: To provide students of all grade levels with the opportunity to explore, promote, and foster all aspects of the dramatic arts at Freedom High School. The Theatre Company brings together passionate students both on and off the stage—seamlessly combining acting and performance with vital technical and

logistical roles such as stage crew, lighting, sound, set design, and production management. Collaborative teamwork is at the heart of what we do, culminating in the proud production of two major theatrical presentations per year. Who Can Join: Open to any student with an interest in performing, acting, singing, dancing, design, technical theatre, or stage production who is ready to collaborate and work during rehearsals and show runs. **Meetings:** Throughout the week in the evenings (specific dates/times TBD based on production and rehearsal schedules). **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Justin Amann

Travel Club

Purpose: To provide students educational experiences outside of the classroom by exploring new sights with hands-on learning. To tour and discover areas both locally and internationally. Fundraising is available for each trip. Open to all students. **Meetings:** Wednesdays from 2:30 – 3:30 **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Karen Buchanan

Video Game Club

Purpose: Meeting: **Faculty Advisor:** Mr. Joshua Centeno

Yearbook - The Spirit Of 2027

Purpose: To produce a pictorial and editorial account of the academic year including functions, activities and the year's highlights. All photography, design, and copy assignments are completed by students with the exception of class portraits. The photo staff is selected from interested students who have taken photography class. Written and design candidates will need teacher recommendations. **Meetings:** Staff meetings are held every Tuesday in Room 601. Members work daily as needed. **Faculty Advisor:** Ms. Rebecca Yeager

Yoga Club

Purpose: To provide students of all grade levels and abilities with an opportunity to practice yoga. Students will learn different postures, sequences, breathing techniques, and mindfulness. Yoga club is a space for students to simply be. **Meetings:** TBA **Faculty Advisor:** Victoria DePaulo

Music Programs

Freedom High School is committed to offering a comprehensive instrumental program with course offerings and performance venues appropriate to student needs, interests and abilities. Opportunities exist for students to participate in several performing groups- Band and Orchestra, which meet on school time for academic credit; and other performing groups, such as Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, String Quartet, Brass Quintet, Woodwind Quintet, meet off school time to meet the needs of more advanced abilities and interests.

The "Block" or "Intensive Schedule" impacts the band and orchestra as follows: The band and orchestra will meet on alternate days during Block 1, the first 85 minutes of each day. This means that the band will meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday on the first week, and Tuesday and Thursday on the next week. The Concert Choir and Patriot Choir will also alternate days during block one. Students who are in orchestra and concert choir or band and Patriot Choir will share block one.

Rehearsal Schedule

Day	Block 1	7:00 a.m. Rehearsal	Rotation
One	Band	Jazz	Band cycle
Two	Orchestra	Wind/String	Orchestra cycle
Three	Band	Jazz	Band cycle
Four	Orchestra	Wind/String	Orchestra cycle
Five	Band	Jazz	Band cycle
Six	Orchestra	Wind/String	Orchestra cycle

Band

The Patriot Band will meet during the first period every other day for the full year and participants will receive a full credit. In addition to a three-week summer band camp, the band rehearses before school at 7:00 am on the day normally scheduled for the band from the opening day of school in September through the third week of November. The band presents a formal concert in the spring, performs at all home and away football games, marches in local and national parades and provides music for numerous school and community activities. Entrance is by audition and grading; seating and continued membership are based on student participation and periodic auditions each year.

Band Twirlers

Purpose: To provide twirlers at all grade levels with an opportunity to participate in precision marching at all football and selected basketball games, parades, pep rallies and concerts as part of the band.

Membership Qualifications: Entrance by audition. Middle school participation is recommended. Grades must be above average. Grading and membership are determined by attendance and ability to learn assigned routines. Meetings: Meets with the band

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Michael Moran

Orchestra

The Orchestra will meet during the first period every other day for the full year participants will receive a full credit. The orchestra presents concerts in the fall and spring, performs in the Winter and Spring Musical Programs along with the coral department, and provides music for the Commencement Program. Entrance is by audition and grading; seating and continued membership are based on student participation and periodic auditions each year.

String Orchestra

Director:

String Orchestra is a smaller ensemble comprised of the players of the orchestra. The string Orchestra rehearses before school at 7:00 AM on the same days as the orchestra. We perform for both the winter holiday concert and spring orchestra concert along with the orchestra and Wind Ensemble.

Wind Ensemble

Wind Ensemble is a smaller ensemble composed of the woodwind, brass, and percussion players of the Orchestra. They are chosen by audition and must be a member of the Patriot Band in order to audition. The wind ensemble rehearses before school at 7:00 am on the same days as the orchestra. We perform for both the winter holiday concert and spring orchestra concert along with the Orchestra and String Orchestra.

Minute Men Jazz Ensemble

The minutemen jazz ensemble is composed of students scheduled for band or orchestra interested in the performance of Jazz and other popular music. The ensemble meets before school on band days at 7:00 am. Membership and seating is determined by audition.

Small Ensemble

Small Ensembles such as String Quartet, Woodwind Quintet and Brass Quintet exist student interests and time allow. Rehearsals are scheduled before or after school as mutually agreed by those interested in pursuing small ensemble experience. Occasionally the Small Ensembles will meet block 1.

Solo Experiences

Opportunities for solo experiences exist for students at formal concerts, in the classroom, in the community, and at meetings of the band and orchestra parents club.

Pmea Band & Orchestra Festivals

Students who participate in the high school band or orchestra are eligible to audition for Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Music Festivals. Entrance is by audition. Auditions are held the first Saturday in December. Audition time and location will be posted in October. Audition requirements, solos, and scales are posted in the band/ orchestra room when we receive them, normally in May. Audition forms are available in the music office in October. The band and orchestra festivals are scheduled over a period of three days, Thursday through Saturday. Students are re-auditioned at the District Festival for Regional Festivals and at Regional Festival for the All-State Band or Orchestra. Audition fees (usually \$5.00 per audition) are paid by the student. All festival fees are paid by the Bethlehem Area School District.

Les Chanteurs

Purpose: To provide frequent opportunities for public performance as well as developing an extensive repertoire. Membership Qualification: Must be a participatory member in the FHS Choir. Open only to a maximum of 28 Concert Choir members who are selected on the basis of an audition. Meetings: Meets one day per week and one hour after school. Special Projects: Out-Of-School Concerts Faculty Advisor: Mrs. Jennifer Volpato

CONCERT and PATRIOT CHOIRS Purpose: To provide students an opportunity to perform vocal music at Winter and Spring concerts as well as middle school assemblies and commencement. Membership Qualifications: The choirs rehearse as follows: Concert/ Patriot-alternate days for the entire year. Faculty Advisor: Mrs. Jennifer Volpato Credit: Concert/ Patriot Choirs- 1.0 credit for the year.

Pmea Choir Festivals

Students who participate in the high school choirs are eligible to audition for Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Music Festivals. Entrance is by audition. Auditions are held in mid-October. Audition time and location will be posted in September. Audition requirements, solos, and scales are posted in the choir room when we receive them, normally in May. Audition forms are available in September. The Choirs Festivals are scheduled over a period of three days, Thursday through Saturday. Students re-audition at the District Festival for Regional Festivals and at Regional Festival for the All-State Choir. Audition fees are paid by the student. All festival fees are paid by the Bethlehem Area School District.

BASD School Resource Officer

School Resource Officer Program

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Bethlehem Area School District School Resource Officer (SRO) Program is to involve Community Police Officers as partners in students' growth and well-being. BASD SROs will actively and positively engage in our schools as mentors, counselors, and caring adults in order to form meaningful relationships with our students and families, staff and the broader community. This process will be guided by trauma-informed and restorative practices, with the aim that all students succeed both in school and in life post graduation.

BASD School Resource Officers are committed to:

- Protect the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the broader school community.
- Participate in the regular school day, student gatherings, after-school activities, and community events.
- Maintain regular communication with school administrators and assist with proactive responses to possible criminal activity.
- Serve as a resource for instruction, leadership, and information on law-enforcement and safety topics when time permits.
- Build positive relationships with students, families, faculty, staff, and community members.
- Work with administrators to prevent or minimize dangerous situations on or near campus.
- Conduct threat assessments under Police Department procedures and serve as a liaison with other law-enforcement agencies.
- Provide students with a positive law-enforcement role model and a trustworthy adult resource.
- The SRO does not administer discipline for violations of BASD rules, policies, procedures, or the Framework for Citizenship.