

FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania



STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

2026 - 2027

INDEX

Administration.....	4
Aevidum.....	28
American Sign Language Club.....	29
Anime Club	28
Appointments.....	14
Art Club.....	28
Asian Heritage Club.....	
Athletes in Action.....	
Athletic Award Policy.....	25
Attendance Guidelines.....	15
Band.....	35
Band Twirlers.....	35
BASD School Resource Officer Prog..	32
Bell Schedule.....	7
Board of School Directors.....	6
Buddies Helping Buddies.....	29
Bullying Policy.....	20
Bus Transportation.....	21
Cafeteria Regulations.....	20
Chess Club.....	29
Citizenship.....	10
Class Advisors.....	23
Class Dues.....	25
Class Officers.....	25
Clubs & Organizations Regulations and Procedures.....	28
Common Infractions and Consequences.....	18
Commencement Speaker.....	23
Community Service.....	10
Crochet Club.....	29
Course Selection and Schedule Change Policy.....	8
Cutting.....	11
Dance Team.....	29
Debate Team.....	30
DECA.....	30
Declaration of Compliance with Civil Rights Responsibilities..	7
Detention.....	18
Department Chairpersons.....	5
Dress and Grooming.....	17
Dropping Courses.....	8
Electronic Device Management.....	16
Engineering Club.....	30
FEAT.....	30
FHS Footprints.....	
Forward.....	4
Freedom Forum.....	30
Freedom Readers.....	
French Club.....	31

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).....	31
Garden Club.....	31
Gender/Sexuality Alliance (GSA).....	31
German Club	32
Grading System.....	9
Graduation Requirements.....	7
Guidance Counselors.....	5
Guidelines for Student Speeches.....	21
Health Center.....	21
Homework Policy.....	10
Honor Roll.....	9
Insurance.....	21
International Leadership Club.....	32
Late Policy.....	13
Leo Club.....	
Les Chanteurs.....	36
Library.....	20
Locker Use.....	18
Locker Search Policy.....	12
Lost and Found.....	21
Marking/Grading System.....	6
Math Team.....	
Medical Club.....	
Minute Man Jazz.....	36
Mission Statement.....	6
Musical Organizations.....	35
Instrumental.....	35
Vocal.....	36
NAACP/FHS Club.....	32
National Honor Society.....	32
Officers of the School District.....	5
Orchestra.....	34
Pen & Ink Magazine.....	32
Philosophy of Education.....	6
Photography Club.....	33
PMEA Band & Orchestra Festivals....	31
PMEA Choir Festivals.....	35
Report Cards.....	9
Robotics Club.....	
SADD.....	33
Schedule Change Policy.....	6
Scholastic Scrimmage.....	33
Science Fair.....	33
Search Policy.....	19
Ski Club	33
Small Ensemble.....	36
Solo Experiences.....	36
Songwriting Club.....	
Spanish Club.....	33
STEM Empowerment Society.....	
Step Club.....	

String Orchestra.....	36
Student Assistance Program.....	20
Student Council.....	24
Student Council Officers.....	24
Student ID Badges.....	18
Student Parking and Registration.....	21
Student Records Policy.....	21
Student Representative to the Board.....	25
Student Rights and Responsibilities.....	17
Suspension.....	18
Table Top Club.....	
Technical Theatre Company.....	34
Theatre Company.....	34
Travel Club.....	34
Unexcused and unlawful Absences.....	14
Varsity Scholar.....	25
Video Game Club.....	
Vocal Music Program.....	36
Wind Ensemble.....	36
Yearbook – “The Spirit of 2027”.....	34
Yoga Club.....	34

FORWARD

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

FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

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

Laurie Sage – Principal

Assistant Principals Suite 101:

Marissa Kvacky, Asst. Principal (Curriculum and Instruction)	53914
Michael P. DiBilio, Asst. Principal (A-Gh)	53914
Mark Sawicki, Asst. Principal (Gi-O)	53914
Charmaine Aguilar, Asst. Principal (P-Z)	53914
Elizabeth DeJesus, Secretary	53914

Fax # - (610) 954-8849

Attendance Suite – Room 227 (Grades 9 - 12)

Patricia Whirl, Attendance Secretary (A-L)	53905
Stephanie Davis, Attendance Secretary (M-Z)	53908

Fax # - (610) 807-5580

Guidance Suite – Room 207 (Grades 9 - 12)

Tammy Jones, Guidance Secretary (A-L)	53904
Irene Kochman, Guidance Secretary (M-Z)	53907

Fax # - (610) 807-5581

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

Student Last Name

Counselor Name & Contact Information

A – Cha

Mrs. Loretta Lohenitz ext. 53920
llohenitz@basdschools.org

Che – E

Mr. Adam Burke ext. 53925
aburke@basdschools.org

F – He

Mr. Christian Lynde ext. 53927
clynde@basdschools.org

Hi – Mam

Mrs. Virginia Werkheiser ext. 53922
vwerkheiser@basdschools.org

Man – O

Ms. Julia Melito ext. 53924
jmelito@basdschools.org

P – Rod

Mrs. Melanie Houser ext. 53921
mhouser@basdschools.org

Roe – S

Ms. Selines Oquendo ext. 53928
soquendo@basdschools.org

T – Z

Mr. John Kaczmarek ext. 53929
jkaczmarek@basdschools.org

DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

Business - Cheryl Santini

ESOL - Karen Lynn

Fine & Practical Arts - Michael Moran

Guidance - John Kaczmarek

Health & Physical Education – Joseph Stellato

English - Michael Dunstan

Mathematics - Jeffrey Young

Science - Eric Baltz

Social Studies – Donna Roman

Special Education – Nicole Hart

World Language – Cynthia Baylis

OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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
OFFICERS**

Dr. Michael E. Faccinetto
Shannon Patrick

President
Vice-President

MEMBERS

Winston Alozie
Dr. Karen Beck Pooley

M. Rayah Levy
Michael D. Recchiuti
Dr. Kim Shively

Emily Schenkel
Dr. Silagh White

NON-MEMBERS

Harry Aristakesian, Secretary
Frank Pearn Jr., Treasurer
Donald F. Spry II, Esq., Solicitor

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

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.

DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH

CIVIL RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES

The Bethlehem Area District/Freedom High School is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title XI 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.

BELL SCHEDULE

2025 - 2026

7:25 a.m. - Teachers Report to School
7:25 a.m. - Breakfast line closes
Block 1 7:30 a.m. – 9:08 a.m.
Block 2 9:13 a.m. – 10:44 a.m.
Block 3 10:49 a.m. – 12:54 a.m.
Lunch A - 10:49 a.m. - 11:19 a.m.
Lunch B - 11:122 a.m. –11:52 a.m.
Lunch C - 11:52 a.m. - 12:22 p.m.
Lunch D – 12:24 p.m. – 12:54 p.m.
Block 4 12:59 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
2:55 p.m. - Teachers Dismissal

GENERAL INFORMATION FOUR YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Required Courses Credit

English	4.0
Social Studies	3.0
Mathematics	3.0 or 4.0
Science	3.0 or 4.0
Physical Education	2.0
Health	1.0
Computer Technology	0.5
Community Service	0.5
Arts*	1.0
General Electives	5.0

Grade When Usually Taken

1.0 Credit each in Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
1.0 Credit each in Grades 9 - 12
1.0 Credit each in Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
1.0 Credit each in Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
0.5 Credit each in Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
0.5 Credit each in Grades 9 and 10

26.0 Credits are required for graduation.

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

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 for pursuing such a credit replacement toward graduation will be determined by the principal in consultation with the student, parent, guidance counselor, and the BAVTS administration (or his or her designee).

SAMPLE COURSE SEQUENCE

Freedom High School operates on a block schedule.

Grade 9	Credit	Grade 11	Credit
Honors or English 9	1.0	AP Language and Composition	
Honors or U.S. History 2	1.0	Honors, or English 11	1.0
Honors or Algebra 2, Geometry, or Algebra 1	1.0	AP World History, Honors, or Global Studies	1.0
Honors or Biology	1.0	AP Calculus, Statistics; AP, Honors or Pre-Calculus	1.0
World Language	1.0	AP, Honors, or Physics or AP Science	1.0
Freshman Seminar	0.5	World Language	1.0
Health 9 and Gym 9/10	1.0	Physical Education 11/12	0.5
Pathway Elective	1.5	Pathway Elective	2.5
Total Credits:	8.0	Total Credits:	8.0

Grade 10	Credit	Grade 12	Credit
Honors or English 10	1.0	AP Literature and Composition or English 12	1.0
AP US History, Honors or U.S. History 3	1.0	AP Macroeconomics, or AP US Gov, or Honors or Government/ Economics	1.0
Honors or Pre-Calculus, Algebra 2, or Geometry	1.0	AP or Calculus, Statistics, or Consumer Math	1.0
Honors or Chemistry	1.0	AP Science or Science Elective	1.0
World Language	1.0	Physical Education 11/12	0.5
Health 10 and Gym 9/10	1.0	Pathway Elective	3.5
Sophomore Elective	0.5	Total Credits	8.0
Pathway Elective	1.5		
Total Credits:	8.0		

PROCEDURE FOR DROPPING COURSES

Students carefully select electives with the help of their parents and counselors. Placement in all core subjects is based on a joint decision by parents, teachers, and students with the purpose of increasing student achievement and offering the most rigorous high school program.

The following guidelines exist for all other schedule changes requested after August 1st:

1. A schedule change request form must be completed by the student and parent. Forms are available in the Counseling Office, room 207, or from the classroom teacher.
2. Schedule changes will be considered for valid educational reasons only. Schedule changes will not be made to accommodate requests for lateral moves within the same subject area or teacher preference.
3. The counselor and assigned teacher will review schedule change requests.
4. Quarter courses (half-semester courses) will not be dropped after the first 5 days of class.
5. Full-semester courses will not be dropped after the first 15 days of class.
6. All students must maintain a full schedule for the entire year.

Withdrawals from a course will not become part of the student record if the course is dropped within the first 15 days of a semester class and within the first 5 days of a quarter course (half semester course). A “W” (Withdraw) will be recorded after those days but prior to the end of the first quarter. Either a “WP” (Withdraw Passing) or “WF” (Withdraw Failing) will be recorded if the course is dropped after the first marking period, indicating the student’s progress at the time of withdrawal.

A course change must be based upon academic considerations, and be facilitated by a conference/plan developed by the student, parent, teacher and counselor/grade level administrator to support student success. This plan will require tutoring, completion of all required work to date, and a sincere demonstration of effort and ability by the student prior to dropping a course or level of course for all classes in English, social studies, math, science, and world language.

GRADING

All courses are graded with the traditional grading system (A, B, C, F). Honors courses receive weighted average grade point value. The following grading equivalents will be utilized to determine the marking period grade for secondary students:

Report Card Grade	Grade Points	Honors/AP Grade Points
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

Report cards will be issued four times in one school year. They are to be kept permanently by the parents of the students. The student is responsible for seeing that the report is delivered to his/her parents.

HONOR ROLL

The honor roll is published at the close of each marking period. Those students who attain a 3.2 academic average, "S" or better in citizenship, and have failed no subject will have their names appear on the honor roll.

Honor Roll and Grade Point Average (GPA) Computation

A+	4.3
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
F	0.0

Students require a 3.2000 minimum G.P.A. in a quarter to be named for honor roll. Quarterly G.P.A. reflects computation of grades in quarter only. This average is used for honor roll. An “N” in citizenship or an “F” in any course eliminates a student from consideration for honor roll. Final cumulative G.P.A. shown on the report card includes all final grades from the beginning of Grade 9 to current final grades.

TYPICAL GRADE POINT COMPUTATION:

Example 1

Course	Grade	Credit	Grade Value
Honors English 11	A	1.0	5.0
U.S. History 11	B	1.0	3.0
Chemistry	A	1.0	4.0
Algebra 2	A	1.0	4.0
Concert Choir	A	1.0	4.0
Gym	B	.5	1.5

Example II

Course	Grade	Credit	Grade Value
English 12	F	1.0	0.0
Government	C	1.0	2.0
Physics	F	1.0	0.0
Drafting (Vo-Tech)	B	2.0	6.0
Gym	C	.5	1.0

CITIZENSHIP

Students at Freedom High School will be expected to conduct themselves on a level that reflects the highest kind of citizenship associated with American youth. The success attained by them and, thereby, the school will depend upon how well they apply themselves, and how well you practice your daily citizenship responsibilities. Unsatisfactory citizenship may necessitate disciplinary action and an appropriate grade on the report card. In addition, unsatisfactory citizenship will result in exclusion from election to class office: Student Council officer, Student Council representative, Student School Board representative and class speaker. The determination of a satisfactory or unsatisfactory citizenship grade will be based upon the final (cumulative) grade as determined at the point in time. Thus, it is possible for a student to receive an "N" during an academic year and still receive a final grade of "S" for the academic year.

A student who receives a suspension will receive an "N" in citizenship for the marking period.

A student who accumulates two or more unexcused/unlawful absences may receive an "N" in citizenship for the marking period.

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.

HOMEWORK POLICY

PURPOSE

The Board of School Directors of the Bethlehem Area School District acknowledges the educational validity of relevant homework as an adjunct to, and extension of, the instructional program of the schools. It is also an area where parental interaction and efforts can have a significant effect on the student's education.

Homework, which is relevant, reasonable, and appropriate in length, gives the student the opportunity to display or develop self-discipline and good work habits, to improve in subject areas, and to develop as well-rounded individuals.

Homework is an important part of every student's instructional program. As the student advances through the grades, homework assignments should increase gradually in complexity with an emphasis on the ability to explain, support, compare and draw conclusions. Assignments should also increase gradually in the amount of time required for completion. Long-term assignments may also be a way for students to meet homework requirements when overnight assignments are difficult to complete due to extracurricular activities.

Parents are encouraged to supervise their child's assignments and contact the appropriate teachers if there are questions regarding the assignments.

DEFINITION

Homework is relevant work planned, approved, and checked by the teacher to be completed by the student outside of the regular classroom without the immediate and direct supervision of the teacher.

Homework is an essential part of the total education of the student when it provides the opportunity for the student to:

- Prepare for school work
- Practice and extend school learning
- Enrich the learning experience
- Reinforce independent study-skills
- Use a variety of sources
- Develop self-discipline and personal responsibility
- Foster parental contact

AUTHORITY

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.

RESPONSIBILITY

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

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT ATTENDANCE POLICY

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.**

LATE 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
- Phone confiscations: timeframes could range from a half hour during lunch detention to confiscation for several blocks, to confiscation for the entire day. (in the case of the first two confiscations, the phone will be returned to the student. Subsequent confiscations will require a parent conference at Freedom HS)
- 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

Additionally, the following measures are being taken:

- Students arriving late to school after 7:30 AM may enter the building ONLY through the front door (Main Entrance) and receive a green late slip before going to class, or a late slip from a kiosk (starting in October)

- We will hold unannounced “lock-outs” on a regular basis during all blocks throughout the year. Teachers will lock their doors and students in the halls will be directed to the cafeteria when this happens to meet with their administrator
- Congregating in the hallways and common areas between all classes will no longer be permitted. Students are to be moving to their next class without stopping to socialize or “hang out” in the hallways. Teachers will be assisting that constant movement. Any students who choose not to comply, are defiant, or blatantly disrespectful will be referred to Office 101 immediately.

UNEXCUSED CLASS ABSENCE

Students are required to attend all scheduled classes and lunch unless previously excused. Cutting of any scheduled time will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Students ARE NOT permitted to leave the building without administrative authorization. Students who leave the building during the day without permission are subject to a minimum three-hour detention. Freedom High School is a closed campus and students are not permitted to leave during lunch. If a student needs to secure something from a car in the parking lot, he/she must receive a pass from his/her Assistant Principal or designee.

An unexcused class absence may result in a zero for all work missed, including, but not limited to quizzes and tests. It will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher as to whether or not the student will be permitted to make up any work missed as a result of an unexcused class absence. Additionally, discipline consequences may be given.

APPOINTMENTS

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

1. Unexcused and unlawful absences are those absences due to truancy, parental negligence and unlawful employment. Under the State Compulsory Attendance Law, the parents of a student who has accumulated three unexcused absences and is within compulsory age limits (under 17 years of age) is to be served a first offense legal notice. Any subsequent unexcused absences then make the parent or guardians of that student liable for a fine under the Compulsory Attendance Law.
2. Pupils who are unexcused or unlawfully absent from the school may receive zeros for all work missed, and may receive suspension.
3. The parents of students who are unexcused or unlawfully absent from school will be informed of their children's actions. Repetition may result in a parent conference with the school district attendance officer and possible legal action as prescribed under Compulsory Attendance Law.
4. Chronic truancy after all reasonable avenues have been explored, including alternative educational programs, expulsion proceedings, will be initiated as outlined on page 3, Section E, in the board policy concerning Student Rights and Responsibilities will be referred to the proper agency for further legal action.

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.

- f. It will be the student's responsibility to contact teachers and make up assignments missed during the time of the trip.
- g. 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.
- h. Parental requests that go beyond the number of days or trips allowed must be approved by the building principal.
- i. 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.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Over the past few years, student cell phone and personal electronic device usage during classroom instructional time has become increasingly problematic. Data shows a correlation between personal electronic device usage in schools with an increase in bullying via social media platforms, decreased academic performance, a loss of academic integrity due to cheating, and dramatic increase in the number of students requiring mental health assistance, and an overall increase in negative, undesired behaviors. For that reason Freedom High School has adopted and will continue to utilize the following school-wide electronic device management plan to regulate students' use of cell phones, airpods, and other electronic devices during instructional time:

Tier 1: Management of electronic devices within the classroom

FHS expectations regarding electronic devices. *All teachers are required* to have a formal policy regarding electronic device usage in their classroom and are responsible for conveying those expectations to their students and families. Cell phones, earbuds, smart watches, etc. are to be turned off or put on silent and should not be used during instructional time. Teachers may collect phones and/or provide a secure place to put them, or they may allow students to keep them on their person provided that the phones are out of sight and not being used.

Teachers *may*, but are *not required* to provide a short "brain break" (5 minutes or less) in which students can access their devices. When the teacher deems that break is over, phones may no longer be used.

Bathrooms (or any instance in which the student leaves the room): *It is the expectation of the administration* that cell phones will not be permitted to leave the classroom when a student needs to use the lavatory or needs to go anywhere else within the timeframe of their class.

SmartPass: *All teachers are required* to utilize SmartPass this year. Students must sign out on their chromebook. Students must turn in their cell phone to their teacher and will be given a classroom bathroom pass before they leave the room.

Students who do not follow their teachers' procedures will be addressed through verbal communication with the student and then parent contact, as outlined by the teacher in their classroom management plan

If a student presents an extreme disciplinary issue (i.e., defiance, argumentative, disrespectful, etc.), the teacher will call Office 101 for a hall monitor to immediately escort the student and their phone to 101, and then follow up with a referral as needed.

Students who continue to have a problem keeping their electronic devices away after classroom-level interventions have been implemented will advance to Tier 2 consequences

Tier 2: Management of electronic devices by Administration

- The student and their phone will be escorted to office 101 by a hall monitor or administrator; the phone will be kept in Office 101 until the end of the school day.
- After 3 “strikes,” a phone will only be returned once an in-person conference is held with the parent or guardian or the designee of the parent.
- Mrs. DeJesus will document each student’s device confiscation
- Administrative consequences will be given as necessary

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Student responsibilities include regular school attendance, conscientious effort in the classroom, and conformance to school rules and regulations. It is expected that the student will share with the administration and faculty the responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.
2. No student has the right to interfere with the education of his/her fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of teachers, students, administrators and all others who are involved in the educational process.
3. Students should express their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner so as not to offend or slander others.
4. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accord with them.

DRESS AND GROOMING

Violations of student dress regulations are classified as Level II infractions. Student dress regulations are required to ensure safety or to avoid disruption of the educational process.

Student dress must adhere to standards which show respect for oneself and the larger school community.

- A. Students shall not wear clothing, symbols, pins or other paraphernalia advertising alcohol, tobacco, and other controlled substances; displaying inappropriate words or pictures; derogatory to any ethnic group; or which may cause disruption to any school, class or extracurricular activity.
- b. Students are not permitted to wear revealing clothing which offends the sense of common decency, as judged by those entrusted with providing a positive school environment. Revealing clothing includes, but not limited to, clothing that reveals the midriff, halter-like tops, see-through blouses or shirts, short shorts, short skirts, cut-off shorts or underwear displayed.
- c. The wearing of caps, hats, bandanas, do-rags, jackets, coats, and other outerwear is prohibited inside the school building unless authorized by an administrator. All such clothing must be stored in lockers or designated areas during the school day.
- d. Shoes, sneakers or other appropriate footwear must be worn at all times unless otherwise specified by an adult authority.
- e. Students shall not wear any clothing items or clothing accessories which, in the view of the administrator, represent a safety hazard or danger to school property.
- f. Students will be informed of any special dress regulations which exist in specialized school programs or activities and will be expected to abide by such regulations.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION BADGE

1. All secondary students in the Bethlehem Area School District will be provided with picture identification cards. Students who lose their identification card will be required to purchase a new identification badge at the cost of \$5.00.

Students should go to Office 101 to obtain the appropriate document and information to purchase a new identification badge.

2. If an individual purposely avoids or refuses to identify himself/herself, in a situation legitimately requiring identification, appropriate disciplinary and/or legal action will be taken.

3. Guidelines for wearing of student I.D. Badges

a. The badge must be in a student's possession at all times during the course of the school year; it must be shown upon request by any school personnel.

b. Students will be encouraged to have their I.D. badge in their possession at all school sponsored community events (ex. performing arts, sporting events)

c. The I.D. badge may be required for admission to all school dances.

d. The I.D. badge may not be defaced

COMMON INFRACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

Common infractions and consequences are listed in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook.

DETENTION

1. Detention is a punitive measure that will be used for certain infractions outlined in this document and will be held as needed for those students assigned. Assignment to detention occurs when students are late to school, late to class, cutting and inexcusably absent. Students also may be assigned detention for disciplinary purposes by a school administrator.

Students who are assigned to detention will observe the following rules:

1. Students must read or study.

2. No talking or sleeping is permitted

3. Failure to report to detention will be considered an act of Defiance in the Code of Conduct.

4. Changes in detention assignment are permissible with the approval of a building administrator.

2. All students will be allowed twenty-four (24) hours to make arrangements to serve their detention. Students assigned to detention are expected to make arrangements for their own transportation. The activity bus provides limited transportation for students who are issued a teacher detention after school. No transportation is provided for Saturday detentions.

SUSPENSION (Grades 9 through 12)

A suspension from attending classes may be invoked as a disciplinary measure at the discretion of the Assistant Principal or the Principal. The suspension will be out-of-school and may be from one (1) to ten (10) days in length depending on the nature and frequency of the infraction. A parent must attend a conference with the Assistant Principal prior to the reinstatement of a suspended student. Failure to appear at the previously determined time indicated on the suspension form without having made contact with the Student Services Center will constitute a violation of suspension policies established by the Board of School Directors as well as the compulsory attendance laws of the Commonwealth and may result in the student's continued suspension and/or appropriate legal action.

A student on an out-of-school suspension is prohibited from being on school district property and is not permitted to attend any district-sponsored events. Suspended students appearing on school grounds may be charged with defiant trespass.

LOCKER USE:

At Freedom High School students are not automatically assigned a locker. However, any student requesting to have a locker may do so in office 207 with one of the guidance secretaries. Students are to use their lockers for storage of books, other school material, and appropriate seasonable clothing. Student lockers are the property of the school district; **Students may not expect that their lockers, or their contents, will be private.** Lockers and their contents are subject to general unannounced searches and other searches by school authorities. They may also be entered by the school personnel to make repairs. The District's policy on locker searches is set forth below.

Lockers may be secured only with locks issued by the school district. Personally owned locks or other devices used to secure lockers will be removed. Students are encouraged to limit locker use by taking materials and books necessary for

an entire A.M. or P.M. session. Locker use is not considered an excuse for tardiness to class. Students are to keep their lockers neat and clean and free of unneeded materials. No items prohibited by the school and nothing of value should be kept in student lockers. The school district is not responsible for items lost or stolen. Malfunctioning lockers must be reported to the student service office for repairs. Theft of school materials or personal property must be reported to the appropriate Student Services Center during the same school day of the discovered theft. A "Theft Report" must be filled out by the students and lost books must be reported immediately to the subject teacher.

SEARCH POLICY

1. The board recognizes students' need to store books, clothing and other personal property safely in school; and the district may provide lockers and other storage space for this purpose. No locker or other assigned in-school storage space may be used to store any substance or object which is prohibited, or which constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or the safety of the building itself.

2. By making lockers or other in-school storage space available for use by students, the district does not relinquish control over the lockers or other space, and students have no expectation of privacy in their lockers or any other storage space assigned to them. Student lockers or other storage space and their contents, including personal items belonging to students, may be searched at any time at the discretion of a school administrator. The district may authorize or undertake such searches regardless of whether the district has reason to believe that prohibited material, or evidence of a violation of law or school policy, will be found in any particular locker.

3. Student lockers or other in-school storage space shall be secured against incursion by other students only by a lock or other device provided by the district, to which the district shall maintain the key or combination. Students may not secure lockers or any other in-school storage space with personal locks or other devices.

4. The district will enter or conduct searches of lockers or other in-school storage space assigned as follows:

a. The district may enter any student locker or other in-school space to repair it or for routine sanitation inspections. The district may also enter any student locker or other in-school storage space for other administrative reasons, including retrieving books and or other materials when students are absent.

b. The district WILL search a student locker or other in-school storage space if there is reasonable suspicion that the locker may contain a substance or object which is prohibited, material which constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or, to the safety of the building itself, or evidence of a violation of law or school rules policy.

c. The district WILL conduct unannounced general inspections of student lockers or other in-school storage space with or without articulable suspicion. Such searches may be conducted with the assistance of trained sniffer dogs. In the event that a sniffer dog search is conducted, the district may open any locker at which the dog alerts, or any locker adjoining one at which a dog alerts.

5. The superintendent shall develop procedures for implementing this policy which requires the following:

a. ALL entry into student or other in-school storage space, other than unannounced general inspections under Section 4.c, of this policy, shall be at the direction of the building principal. In the event that the search is prompted by reasonable suspicion that the contents of a student's locker create an emergency, and the principal is absent from the building, or otherwise unavailable, a person temporarily in charge of the building may direct that the search be conducted.

b. Unannounced general searches under Section 4.c, shall be conducted at the direction of the superintendent.

c. The principal or person temporarily in charge of the building, or his or her designee, shall be present whenever a student's locker is opened by the district.

d. Unless school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that a locker contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare or safety of students in the school, the student shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present when the locker is opened.

e. Where school authorities have reasonable suspicion that the locker contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare or safety of students in the school, student lockers may be searched without prior warning to the student, and without the student's presence.

f. At least two representatives of the school shall be present whenever a student's locker is opened.

g. The principal shall be responsible for the safe-keeping and proper disposal of any substance, object or material found to be improperly stored in a student's locker, which shall include prompt delivery to law enforcement authorities, where appropriate.

h. Materials found in locker searches may be used in disciplinary and other proceedings against the student.

i. The principal shall be responsible for the prompt recording in writing of each locker inspection, which record shall include the reasons for the search, persons present, objects found and their disposition.

School officials are authorized to search a student's personal possessions or motor vehicle parked on school

property when there is reasonable suspicion that the student is violating the law, Board policy or school rules, or poses a threat to the student or the school population. Personal possessions include, but are not limited to: book bags, coats, purses, wallets, and pockets.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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
- * talk of drug and alcohol use
- * drop in grades
- * change in appearance
- * loss of interest in activities
- * disciplinary issues
- * depression or anxiety
- * any other concerns that someone may have about a student. The Student Assistance Program...
- * relationship problems
- * change in circle of peers/friends
- * grief due to separation or death
- * disruptive life changes
- * violence or safety concerns
- * eating disorder
- * uncontrolled anger

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 POLICY

To ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students, Freedom High School takes bullying of students seriously. Please see the APPENDIX for the school district's policy on Bullying/Cyberbullying.

LIBRARY

The Library is open from 7:30 – 4:00 PM except Fridays when the library is closed after school.

Library Passes are required to enter the library at all times (unless students enter with their entire class, for which the teacher scheduled the class time in the library). There is to be no food or drink in the library. Any food or drink items must be deposited behind the Circulation Desk as the students enter to use the library. Students can pick up their food and drink items on their way out of the library.

Fines on overdue materials are calculated on a daily basis and are the responsibility of the borrowing student; book fines are 10 cents per day, magazines or periodical fines are 10 cents per day. If a student owes outstanding books or fines, they will not have the privilege to check out any other materials until the outstanding books are returned and the fines paid in total.

CAFETERIA REGULATIONS

ALL STUDENTS PURCHASING A LUNCH MUST GET A TRAY.

All students must use their student ID card to purchase food.

All students cannot enter and leave at will, permission must be obtained by a cafeteria monitor or other adult in authority. Use of the Campus Shop is limited to the first 15 minutes of each lunch period. Students requesting to go to the Campus Shop may do so at the discretion of the adult and upon showing their student I.D. card.

HEALTH CENTER

The certified school nurse is a caring professional who provides quality health services so that our children are ready to learn. Health services given in the Health Center include vision and hearing screening, height and weight measurements,

assisting medical examinations, maintenance of medical and dental records. First aid will be given for emergencies which occur during school hours. The nurse will determine whether the degree of illness requires sending the student home. If a student requires medication during the school day, a medication authorization form must be signed by the doctor and parent brought to school with the medication. The nurse will administer the medication as directed by the doctor at the prescribed time. The nurse will arrange to have the student released from class in order to receive the medication. The student is responsible to arrive in the Health Center at the arranged time. No medication will be given at any time unless there is a medication authorization form on file. This form must be signed by the doctor, parent/guardian. Pupils excluded from school for a contagious disease are required by state law to be confined to their homes for a prescribed number of days and to bring a medical release before being readmitted to the classroom. A telephone number change should be reported to the student service office and at the health center so that it may be properly recorded for use in any emergency. PLEASE NOTE: If you do not have a primary physician, dentist, or clinic, please contact your school nurse, and she will assist you in finding a doctor, dentist, or clinic. We urge you to see your primary health care or dental provider for injuries or illnesses that occur outside of school. The school health room is not intended to replace primary health care or dental provider.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided for all high school pupils of the Bethlehem Area School District who reside two or more miles from the nearest point of school property. A transportation identification card is issued annually by the school district to all eligible pupils, and pupils are assigned to particular buses which serve designated areas. The identification card is to be carried at all times and is not transferable to another pupil. School district transportation is considered a privilege, and this privilege may be revoked for the following reasons: smoking, fighting, boisterousness, throwing paper and refuse on the floor, vandalism, disobedience to the driver, lack of cooperation or a poor attitude.

STUDENT PARKING and REGISTRATION

- Student Parking- 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.

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.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDENT RECORDS POLICY

FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

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 RIGHTS OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS

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

1. examine the contents of the record in the presence of the principal or other designated professional staff member.
2. privacy of the record in most cases (exceptions listed under "Miscellaneous, No. 5")
3. add verified and relevant information to the record
4. submit a statement concerning the appropriateness of validity of material in the record.
5. 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)
6. direct (via written consent) the school to share specified record information with others
7. 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Periodically, student records are screened to remove irrelevant, outdated or improper materials.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Lists identifying names and addresses of students are not released except for PTO use.

CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

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.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT SPEECHES

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:

- 1) All speeches must be written out thoroughly ahead of time and given to the appropriate faculty member or administrator for his or her perusal.
- 2) Once a speech has been approved for delivery, the student giving the speech may not deviate from that speech.
- 3) Students who deviate from their approved speech will forfeit any position for which they seek.

- 4) 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.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

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 ACTIVITIES
STUDENT COUNCIL**

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 OFFICERS

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

Faculty Advisors.....Ms. Corinne Salter & Mr. Michael Cleffi

Students who wish to represent their classmates as Student Council Officers, Representatives, and Class Officers must have a satisfactory citizenship record. Students holding any office and who are not performing satisfactorily may be removed from office by an administrator upon the recommendation of an advisor.

Freshmen will elect their four (4) class officers in September. Since its inception, the Freedom Student Council has played a leading role in planning and promoting student activities. A unique aspect of these programs is the active involvement and supervision of the Student Council. This responsibility places high expectations on students elected to leadership positions. Therefore, the Student Council encourages all students to follow the rules and regulations established to ensure the successful operations of student-led activities.

It should be noted that the unique aspect of these programs is the active supervision by the Student Council. This, however, places a greater burden on the students elected to Student Council posts. Thus, the Student Council urges the student body to abide by the rules and regulations established to ensure the smooth operation of these student directed and oriented activities.

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

Attendance- Each Student Council member is permitted one unexcused absence from a meeting. A second unexcused absence will result in parent/guardian contact. A third unexcused absence may result in a recommendation from the advisor to the principal for removal from Student Council. Any senior running for a Student Council officer position (excluding Student Council Representative) must have at least one year of prior Student Council experience.

CLASS ADVISORS

2027.....	Ms. Graceanne Ruggiero Mr. Joseph Mozingo
2028.....	Mrs. Carmen Cespedes
2029.....	Ms. Victoria DePaulo Ms. Lauren Lalik
2030.....	

**CLASS OFFICERS
2027**

President.....	Brody Stellato
Vice President.....	Luke Twigg
Secretary.....	Maliyah Horvath
Treasurer.....	Kathryn Nenna
Historian.....	Pallo Odotte

2028

President.....	Miles Rieger
Vice President.....	Kayden Taylor
Secretary.....	Lucas Yaguez
Treasurer.....	Autumn Outler
Historian.....	Julia Fiorini

2029

President.....	Amani Ali
Vice President.....	Andrew Dieter
Secretary.....	Brandon Rivera
Treasurer.....	Alicia Reis
Historian.....	Juan Puentes

2030

To Be Determined in the Fall of 2026

CLASS DUES

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.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

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.

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

ATHLETIC AWARD POLICY

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

VARSIY SCHOLAR

The Varsity Scholar Program is given for the express purpose of recognizing pupils who attain all "A's" or the equivalent. A varsity award is given to each pupil who attains all "A's" or the equivalent at the end of any scholastic year.

A student who attains all "A's" or the equivalent for the year for the first time will receive a varsity award as identified by the administration.

If a student has maintained all "A's" or the equivalent average for two or three years, after the first year, the award as identified by an administration.

If a student has maintained all "A's" or the equivalent average for two or three years, after the first year, the award will be in the form of a certificate recognizing academic excellence. If a student maintains a straight "A" or the equivalent average for four years, the student will receive a Lamp of Knowledge.

For a transfer student to qualify for the Varsity Scholarship Awards, the student must receive all "S's" or the equivalent during the course of one school year at Freedom High School.

If the school from which the student transferred has a similar program, the student will not be eligible for the Freedom High School Varsity Scholarship Award, except with regard to the scholastic work at Freedom High School.

NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE INFORMATION

"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 REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMING EVENTS CANNOT BE ADVERTISED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD UNTIL TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

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. Kim 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-
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

ATHELETES IN ACTION (FORMERLY SPECIAL OLYMPICS)

Purpose:
Meetings:
Faculty Advisor: Ms. Melissa Hamm

BUDDIES HELPING BUDDIES

Purpose: To provide students with special needs an opportunity to practice social skills and build Friendships with the assistance of student volunteers. Open to all students.

Meetings: Thursdays (2:45-3:45), Room 203 specific dates TBA
Faculty Advisor: Ms. Melissa Hamm

CHESS CLUB

Purpose: To practice and operate competitive chess and compete 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: Ms. Kimberly Elliott

DEBATE TEAM

Purpose: This club provides students with the opportunity to learn and practice the techniques required to participate in formal debate. Students acquire persuasive speaking skills through research activities, time management strategies, and public presentations. As a result, students will demonstrate their communication talents in debate competitions with area high school students. Any student interested in debating whose academic work permits the time required for research and practice.

Meetings: Once a week at 2:30 p.m. to be determined on the basis of a member's schedule.

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

FHS FOOTPRINTS

Purpose:

Meetings:

Faculty Advisor: Ms. Jessica Sell

FREEDOM FORUM

Purpose: To produce the award-winning The Freedom Forum, FHS newspaper. Students plan, design, and implement all aspects of a student-run newspaper. Students write and edit articles, take photos and video, edit and upload media, sell advertising, gather sponsors, plan and run fundraisers, create and update web pages, send Tweets, layout publication using desktop publishing programs, and work collaboratively with students, faculty, administration, and community members.

Everyone is welcome. Members are strongly encouraged to take journalism, creative writing, photography, and/or web design. Each spring staff members apply for editorships for the following school year.

Meetings: Wednesdays 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:

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

Purpose: 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: The Freedom Garden Club is an organization that promotes: The art of gardening; Provides participation in activities promoting beautification, restoration, garden therapy and citizenship; and supports the protection and conservation of our natural resources at Freedom High School. Members are any 9th-12th grade student who shows an interest in participating in the activities of the Garden Club.
Meetings: Room 125E for initial meetings, work will be done in the courtyard and garden by the back parking lot. The Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday in September through November and March through June 2:30 PM to 4:15 PM
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:
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:

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: High School mentors work with middle school girls at Broughal and East Hills where we create, build, problem solve and encourage young ladies to make an impact in the engineering community.

Meetings: Room 303

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

TECHNICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Purpose: To provide technical and logistical service for music and dramatic organizations who produce approximately seven presentations per year. Any boy or girl willing to work during and after school hours.

Meetings: No specified time segment. Students are asked to meet whenever needed for school functions.

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Justin Amann

THEATRE COMPANY

Purpose: To provide students at all grade levels with an opportunity to promote and foster dramatic activities at Freedom High School. Any student who has an interest in acting or other theater activities.

Meetings: 1st Monday of the month.

Special Projects: Support of all Freedom High School productions.

Officers: Stage Crew Manager

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

**MUSICAL ORGANIZATIONS
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM**

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:	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six
BLOCK ONE	BAND	ORCH	BAND	ORCH	BAND	ORCH
7:00 AM REH	JAZZ	WIND/STRING	JAZZ	WIND/STRING	JAZZ	WIND/STRING

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.

VOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM 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 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 well-being, encompassing the safety of students, faculty, and members of the broader school community.
- Participate in campus life, including the regular school day, student gatherings and after-school events, and community events.
- Develop contacts with all principals on their assigned BASD campus and assist in proactive responses to any school district criminal activity.
- SRO will not enforce discipline relating to BASD Code of Conduct regulations, rules, policies or procedures.
- Be available as time permits to be used as a resource to teach, lead, participate, or offer information on law enforcement topics.
- Meet with the school principal(s)/administrators on a daily basis.
- Develop positive working relationships with school faculty and staff to include assist with criminal and non-criminal issues on school sites.
- Confer with the school administration to develop strategies to prevent or minimize dangerous situations on or near the campus.
- Conduct threat assessments following Police Department procedures
- Act as a communication liaison with law enforcement agencies; provide basic information concerning students on campuses served by the officer.
- Be a positive law enforcement role model and use proactive prevention by exposing human qualities of law enforcement to our youth and give them a trustworthy adult upon whom to depend.
- Aligned to NASRO Standards