

Freeport Secondary Schools March/April 2024 Family Newsletter



PJAS Region 9 Competition

Marcy Mattivi, Scarlett Sather, Pavana Bhat, Madison Ronge, Jacob Franks, JJ Nicolls, Alexis Reesman, and Olivia Smetak competed at PJAS Region 9 Competition on Saturday, February 24 at Slippery Rock University. They all did very well. Pavana and Jacob both earned perfect scores. Scarlett, Jacob and JJ received Director's Awards in their respective categories. Pavana received a Senior High Chemistry Special Award from SRU. The students who received 1st place awards will be moving on to the state competition at Penn State University on May 19-21.



Ski Club Members Volunteer at 2024 Winter Special Olympics

At 6:30am this past Valentine's Day, sixteen members of the senior high ski club boarded a bus to Seven Springs Mountain Resort to volunteer at the Special Olympics Winter Games. These students were individually paired with competitors and were asked to take care of athlete's needs throughout the day's events. Our volunteers helped warm the athletes up by taking practice runs on the slopes, escorted them to their timed events, and cheered them on as they competed.

This was the 26th year Freeport's ski club members have been at the Special Olympics Winter Games in Pennsylvania and our volunteers helped make sure that the nearly 300 athletes who showed up to compete were afforded their opportunity to shine. These Olympic-type sports give these athletes continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy.

Volunteering with the Special Olympics pushes many of our students outside of their comfort zone as they get paired to work with youth and adults with intellectual disabilities. For many of our students, this opportunity places them in the role of caregiver for the first time and develops their ability to take responsibility for others. Our students walk away from this experience with a new appreciation for their capacity to impact the larger community and you can see from the smiling faces of the students that it was a lot of fun to boot!



Welcome to the Freeport Family Baby Languer:

Congratulations to Mrs. Kami Languer and her husband for welcoming their first child, Carter Daniel Languer. Carter was born on January 22, 2024 at 9:12 pm. He was 8 pounds 13 ounces and measured at 21.5 inches.



FAMS eSports Club:

The eSports Club meets every Wednesday at FAMS. Mr. Harris and Mr. Palmiter organize and run this club to expose students to video games from different consoles, generations, and genres. Each nine weeks a new grade level of students is able to sign up and take advantage of having fun with friends, taking part in an after-school activity, and being connected.

FAMS PSSA Dates:

Students at FAMS will be taking the PSSA in ELA, Math, and Science this spring. Testing window dates are set for April 22-April 26 for ELA and April 29-May 3 for Math and Science. The make-up testing window is set for May 6-10. Specific dates will be sent out to families later in March.



FAMS Spring Fling Dance:

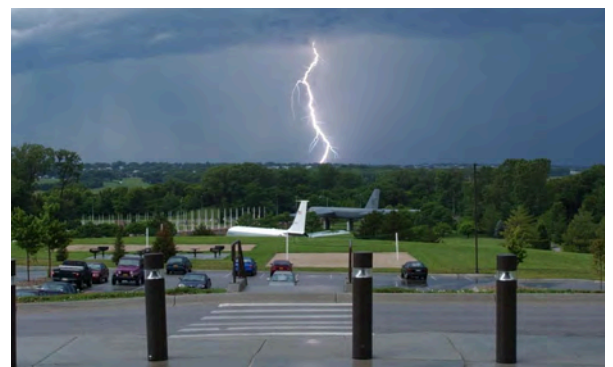
We welcome all Freeport Area Middle School students to attend our Spring Fling Dance! StuCo is sponsoring our Spring Fling Dance on Friday, March 15 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Middle School. Admission to the dance is \$7 (small bills preferred), and no one will be allowed to enter past 6:20 pm. The dance has a neon theme and there will be prizes for the best dressed in their neon gear! We will have a DJ. The concession stand will be open for purchase of pizza, drinks, and candy. Please bring small bills if possible. Dismissal from the dance will begin at 7:45 pm, and all students must have a ride by 8:00 pm. We will dismiss 6th grade students to door 16, and we ask that parents park so students can walk to their cars. We will dismiss 7th and 8th grade students to door 1, and we ask that parents park or pull alongside the curb for pick up. This is a school-sponsored event, so please make sure that all school policies and rules are being followed. If your child is absent from school, they can only attend if the excuse is medical. If you have any dance-related questions, please contact Mrs. Mitchell, our StuCo sponsor at mitchell@freeport.k12.pa.us.



Severe Weather Drills:

A Severe Weather Drill will be conducted in all of the Freeport Area schools during the month of April. The purpose of the drill was to conduct “a severe weather” scenario (tornado, microburst, hurricane, etc.) in which students and staff needed to take appropriate safety measures. This drill is mandated by the state of Pennsylvania.

Student Safety Team members will be doing a Public Service Announcement on JPN to make the student body aware of expectations during the drill. Science teachers will also be conducting “severe weather” lessons in their classes prior to the drill so students have a better understanding of severe weather.



Advisory Lessons and Monthly Themes:

February was Kindness Counts Month. During advisory classes, students spent the month writing letters or signs of appreciation to a staff member in which they appreciate. They also were given a student name and were tasked to write an acrostic poem about that student. The poems were then hung on each student's locker and used as affirmations.

Staff members also wrote kindness cards for students that promoted their kind words and actions. These cards were put on display along with highlighting students that are kind in their community with helping organizations, family members, or neighbors.

Art students also painted self-designed messages of kindness on the cafeteria windows as a reminder of how we want to treat others - with compassion and respect!



Middle School Student Council

PMEA Region 2 Honors Band

Congratulations to Nicholas Parenti for performing in the PMEA Region 2 Honors Band at Meadville High School! Nicholas placed 2nd chair out of 10 tubas in his section and is an automatic return for next year's District Band! Nick spent the three days rehearsing the music, learning new rehearsal techniques from Dr. Brad Genevro of Oklahoma State University and put on a concert for 500+ in attendance. Great Job Nick!!!



Spanish IV class

Senora Lincoln's Spanish IV class hosted *Eslamol*, a poetry slam in Spanish. Students presented original poems they had written in Spanish "au Cafe Biblioteca" (Cafe high school library)



High School Key Club

For **Kindness Month**, members colored messages/pictures and they are posted throughout the halls and restrooms. Jacket Java used coffee sleeves with positive messages on them from the Key Club.

Members of the Key Club have been volunteering at the Elementary Schools, babysitting for an event and helping with Buffalo's Reading Night. The beginning of March will have about 60 of our members traveling to Buffalo and South Buffalo Elementary to celebrate "**Read Across America**" with the students. Reading stories, making crafts and playing games with students in Kindergarten thru Third Grade.

Members have also been volunteering at Freeport Library to help out and learn about the daily operations! Dates are available for the remainder of the year.

The Kiwanis held a **Turkey and Biscuit Dinner** to benefit the Scholarship Fund on March 2nd. Key Club Members were there to serve and assist in any way possible. On March 9th, volunteers helped at the **Spaghetti Dinner for Mrs. Grenda!**

Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch is on **March 30th** at Freeport Park! Egg Hunt officially starts at **11:00 AM**. Join the Kiwanis and Key Club Members for a free lunch and photos with the Easter Bunny downstairs at Laube Hall after the Egg Hunt. This has been an annual event for over 60 years! Thank you to the **Kiwanis Members** and **Freeport Fire Department** for continuing such an outstanding Community Event!



PMEA District 3 Honors Jazz Band

On February 15 & 16, 2024 a group of 11 jazz students from Freeport Area High School performed in the PMEA District 3 Honors Jazz Band. These students had to audition for their part back on November 15 against 120 other applicants from 25 other schools.

There were three Jazz Groups in total, comprising 54 students. Freeport was able to procure 11 of those spots! Congratulations to these 11 students for auditioning, being accepted into and performing in the PMEA District 3 Honors Jazz Band this evening Indiana Jr High School!!! All three jazz groups put on a WONDERFUL show!!!
Go band!!!

Front

Max Kruse, Krosby Halleran, Wendy Hietsch, Jacob Franks & Maura Maloney

Top

Emily Hietsch, Nick Emeloff, Natalie Wallisch, Kodi Esau, Ella Eyler & Nick Parenti



Colorguard, Majorette, Drumline and Band Officer Tryouts

Any student in 9th-12th Grade during the 2024-2025 school year that would like to audition for the colorguard, majorette squad, drumline or any current marching band member that would like to interview for an officer position can do so during the week of April 22-26, 2024. Specific dates, times, locations and practices will be held in the evening during that week with the marching band staff. Any student wanting information on the matter can see Mr. Smith during the first week of April to receive a packet of information pertaining to the week of practices and auditions.

Sign ups for instrumentalists wanting to be in the marching band will receive information in May. Go band!!!



Armstrong County Junior Band Festival

On January 31st, Freeport Area Middle School played host to the 2024 Armstrong County Junior Band Festival. There were 95 students from the five participating schools (Apollo-Ridge JR/SR HS, Armstrong JR/SR HS, Freeport MS/HS, Leechburg Jr/Sr HS and West Shamokin JR/SR HS) that came to the school to rehearse for the day and put on a concert in the evening. Students had the opportunity to learn with the other county directors for the day, which provided a learning experience they can bring back with them to Freeport. The performance was top-notch and these Freeport students had an opportunity to shine with the rest of the county!



Front Row: Wendy Hietsch, Elizabeth Schwarz, Grace Laboda, Emma Charlton, Gabe Sutej, Lucy Hassler, Garret Kramer, Tessa Ladouceur & Mr. Smith

Back Row: Stella Burd, Hannah Altman, Abby Bentz, Garret Shimpeno, Mackenzie Magness, Dylan Toborkey, Brayden Riddell & Elijah Magness

Alle-Kiski Valley Honors Band

The Alle-Kiski Valley Honors Band is one of the nation's longest lasting honors band festivals in the country. The association comprises 11 school districts in the area, and Freeport is lucky to be one of the original members of the association. This year's festival was hosted at Springdale High School on January 18 and 19, 2024. Freeport had 11 students audition and make the ensemble in the top of their sections! The students were under the direction of Dr. Don McKinney, Director of Bands at the University of Colorado (who also happens to be a graduate of Kiski Area HS). Unfortunately, the festival was canceled due to snow, but the students still had the opportunity to learn from Dr. McKinney. Great job!



Front: Abby Bentz, Emily Hietsch, Maura Maloney, Katie McCoy, Avery Vorse & Rachel Blose
Middle: Bridget Beck & Jacob Franks
Back: Kodi Esau, Nick Parenti, Ella Eyler & Krosby Halleran

PMEA District 3 Honors Band

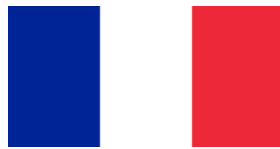
On January 11 & 12, 2024 , seven band students in Freeport Area Senior High School, had the fortunate opportunity to attend the PMEA District 3 Honors Band. This festival was hosted at West Shamokin Jr/Sr High School and Dr. Greg Martin (Director of Bands at West Chester University) was the guest director. These students spent two full days of rehearsal to put on a wonderful concert. Even though the wind was fierce - which led to the power going out - these students put on a wonderful performance!!! Bravo!!!



Left to Right: Maura Maloney, Nick Parenti, Avery Vorse, Ella Eyler, Emily Hietsch, Madalin Burnheimer & Katie McCoy

La Manie Musicale arrive!

Students in Madame Chounet's French classes have officially entered the best season of the year, la saison de la Manie Musicale! Manie Musicale is a French music competition modeled after the NCAA's March Madness competition. The competition, which began in 2017 at 2 middle schools in Maine, has grown to a world-wide competition! As of March 4th, schools in 37 countries, totaling over 700,000 students including the 167 French students here at the high school, are participating. The competition is not only fun, but educational, as students learn vocabulary related to music and competitions, learn about different places in the world that French is spoken (spoiler alert - it's not just France and Canada!), and students are being exposed to French being spoken in different accents which helps them become better at listening to understand French. If you know a French student participating, be sure to ask them which song will be crowned le vainqueur de la Manie Musicale 2024!



Manie Musicale de mars 2024

Je m'appelle _____
Période _____

YouTube

Spotify

Apple PlayList

« Dépassé »
Nuit Incolore

1

« Matin midi soir » - Missy D

3

« Horizon »
Gims

5

« C'est la vie »
Mika

7

« La Musique »
Lékhó

9

« Je suis fou »
Vianney, Girac, Soprano

11

« T'as le temps »
Julien Canaby

9

13

15

11

2

10

4

14

6

12

8

« Akwaba »
Magic System

« Tu es là »
Les Maryann

« Les choses qu'on fait » - Vitea

« Réver éveillé »
Bégin & Bouvette

« Grandir »
Black M & Amir

« Travailler »
Baladji Kwata

« Casa »
Ouidad

« Tu rayonnes »
Anisha Jo

VAINQUEUR

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Mes points (1er tour): _____ (1 point par victoire - jours 1 à 8)

Mes points (2e tour): _____ (3 points par victoire - jours 9 à 12)

Mes points (3e tour): _____ (5 points par victoire - jours 13 et 14)

Championnat (0 ou 8 points): _____

Mes points (TOTAL): _____

FAMS CAREER DAY: Professionals within our local community will be joining us to share information about their careers with our students. These professionals will be presenting their differentiated experiences within the four career pathways: Arts and Communication; Engineering Sciences and Industrial Technology; Business and Finance; and Health and Human Services. Some careers include: EMT, engineers, police officer, medical device sales rep, registered nurse, occupational therapist, real estate agent, hair stylist, coffee shop owner, theater professional, HR professional, lawyer, mayor, financial analyst, as well as Lenape Vo-Tech opportunities and trade programs.



PFAFF'S WARRIORS



Freeport HS Student Council sold PFAFF WARRIORS bracelets to show support for Mrs. Pfaff during her courageous battle with cancer. STUCO sold 600 bracelets during lunches and WIN times and collected \$4,717! Combined with other school organizations and staff donations from each school in the district, Mrs. Pfaff received a check for \$7,674 that went straight to her and her family to help during her treatments. Student Council would like to thank all that donated, showing again why the district and its surrounding area is such an incredible community to be a part of!





Power Up for Success!

This month, unlock the SUPERPOWERS of :

Teamwork, Work Ethic, Healthy Choices, and Problem-Solving!

Be a Team Player: Share ideas, divide tasks fairly to highlight each other's strengths, help teammates, celebrate success! *Teamwork makes the Dream work!!*

Rock Your Work: Set goals, give it your best, learn from mistakes! Be on time! This shows respect and responsibility towards yourself, your work and the teacher.

Fuel Your Body & Mind: Eat healthy, get enough sleep, move your body! Just like a car needs fuel, so does your body and mind to be at your best.

Conquer Challenges by Making Smart Choices and Problem Solving Like a Pro! :

Identify problems, brainstorm solutions, choose wisely, learn & adapt! ➡

Remember, you have all the tools you need to succeed!

School counselors are always here to help you develop these awesome skills, so don't hesitate to reach out!

See you around,

The School Counseling Team

73rd Pennsylvania DECA State Career Development Conference



The DECA State Conference was held once again at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA from February 21-23. Over 3300 students from Pennsylvania attended the conference, of which 18 participated from Freeport High School. Students took a written exam and competed in a real life scenario for their event. They also had the opportunity to attend workshops such as “Dress for Success”, “Decisions & Career Opportunities” among many others. In their down time, the students were able to enjoy the pool, visit Chocolate World and the Hershey Outlets. Leah Schreckengost and Sofi Pagano received medals for their high role play score in the Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team. Congratulations to all for another successful event!



DECA Fundraiser for Mrs. Pfaff



The DECA members came together to provide a concession stand during the Pfaff Warriors event that took place Friday, March 1st at the end of the school day. We want to thank Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church for donating 9 dozen homemade perogies (they were delish), Huggies for donating 3 cases of fruit drinks and Sam’s Club provided us with a gift card that went towards the purchase of the ingredients for walking tacos and nachos and cheese. The DECA Club ended up raising \$400.00 in a half hour for Mrs. Pfaff’s fight against cancer. Thank you to all that helped and purchased items!



School Counseling Office

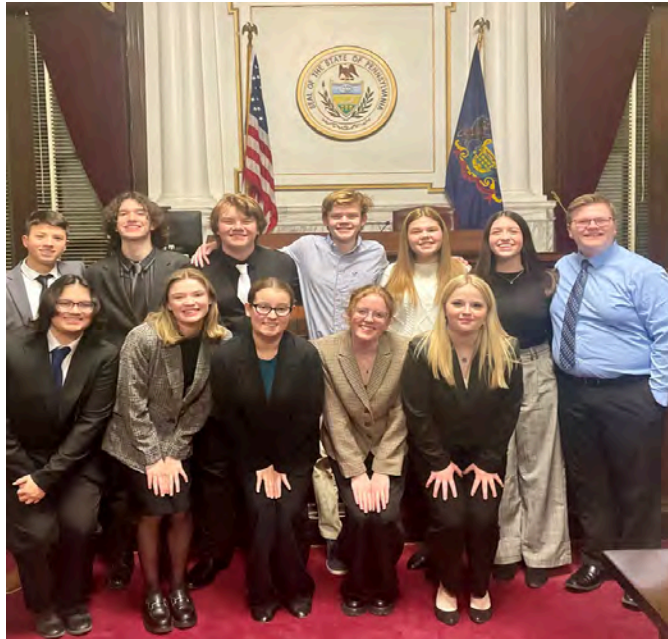
Jobs/Enrichment

Scholarships



Scan the QR code for up to date information on scholarship, employment, and enrichment opportunities for students!

Please see your school counselor with specific questions about any of the opportunities listed!



Twenty-two students from Freeport Area High School participated in this year's Mock Trial District Competition at Butler County Courthouse. Congratulations to both Mock Trial teams for a great competition!! Special shout-out to Team A for advancing to the final round of competition and to the students who were recognized as Best Witness or Best Advocate for their performance during the competition.

Best Advocate Award Recipients:

Madi Burnheimer, Abby Walsh, Nick Emeloff, Anne Lindsay.

Best Witness Award Recipients:

Isabella McKivigan, Rachel Blose, Calvin Lindsay, Zach Kladny



Armstrong County Junior High Chorus Festival

The Armstrong County Junior High Chorus Festival, hosted at Freeport Area Middle School on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, was a resounding success. The festival showcased the immense talent of junior high choristers from the five school districts in Armstrong County, who came together to deliver a harmonious and memorable experience. Each participating director led the choir for one of the songs, giving the students an opportunity to experience different teaching techniques and styles. The event not only highlighted the dedication and hard work of the young performers but also emphasized the importance of music education in fostering collaboration and artistic expression. The Freeport Area Middle School provided an exceptional venue for this celebration of music.

Shrek, Jr

Freeport Area Middle School's production of "Shrek, Jr." from February 8 to 10 was an absolute triumph, enchanting audiences with its spectacular blend of humor, heart, and talent. The students brought the whimsical world of Shrek and his fairy tale companions to life with incredible energy and flair. The performances showcased not only the actors' dedication but also the exceptional teamwork of the entire production crew, from set design to costume creation. The infectious enthusiasm of the cast, coupled with the captivating storytelling and lively musical numbers, left a lasting impression on the audience, making it a memorable experience for all who attended.

The success of "Shrek, Jr." at Freeport Area Middle School was not just a testament to the students' theatrical abilities but also highlighted the school's commitment to fostering creativity and collaboration. The production served as a source of pride for the school community, bringing together students, parents, and faculty in celebration of the performing arts. The three-day run of the show not only entertained but also showcased the vibrant talent within Freeport Area Middle School, leaving the audience eagerly anticipating future productions from this talented group of young performers.





PMEA District 3 Chorus Festival

The PMEA District 3 Chorus Festival, hosted at Freeport Area Middle School from January 24 to 26, 2024, was an extraordinary showcase of musical excellence and teamwork. The event brought together talented singers from nearly 30 school districts across PMEA District 3 under the direction of the guest conductor, Mr. Francis Nesta. Mr. Nesta's passion for music was evident as he led the chorus through a repertoire that spanned various genres and showcased the incredible vocal abilities of the students. The festival not only highlighted the individual talents of the participating students but also emphasized the power of collective harmony and unity in music.

Freeport Area Middle School served as an ideal venue for this festival, providing a welcoming and acoustically rich environment for the talented performers. The festival's success was not only measured by the outstanding vocal performances but also by the sense of camaraderie and shared love for music that permeated the event. The PMEA District 3 Chorus Festival left a lasting impact on both the participants and the audience, reinforcing the importance of music education and the joy it brings to the community. Congratulations to the members of Freeport High School who took part in this festival: Rachel Blose, Jacob Franks, Rachel Hartman, Katelyn Hemphill, Zack Kladny, Mario Lesko, Anne Lindsay, Kaitlyn Lindsay, Natalie Manzi, Bella McKivigan, Emma Michelini, Nick Parenti, and Maggie Watson.

PMEA Region II Chorus Festival



Congratulations to the outstanding singers from Freeport Area High School who advanced to the PMEA Region II Chorus Festival. Jacob Franks, Rachel Hartman, Katelyn Hemphill, Zack Kladny, Natalie Manzi, Bella McKivigan, Emma Michelini, Nick Parenti, and Maggie Watson will all participate in the festival from March 7 to 9, 2024 hosted in Oil City, PA. These talented individuals have not only showcased their exceptional vocal abilities but have also exemplified dedication and passion for the art of music. Their accomplishment is a testament to the high standards of the choral music program. As they prepare to represent Freeport at this prestigious event, we extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes for a harmonious and successful experience on the regional stage. Break a leg!

Special message from **Mrs. Pfaff and Family:**

My family and I would like to thank each and every one of you for not just your donations, but your kindness. Every student, parent, community member, staff, and faculty member. The support that has been shown to us is immeasurable and so incredibly uplifting. Again, **YOU** should be so proud of yourselves. You are supporting someone, that you may not even know, strictly because they need it, without any questions asked. When you look at what was accomplished through this Warrior Event, know that it was **YOU**. You did something because you are great people. You are raising and molding students (and each other) into individuals that put someone else's needs in front of their own, without the expectation of anything in return. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Sincerely, Mrs. Dana Pfaff & Family



Designed by **Elizabeth Craven (11)** and **Nevea Thomas (12)**