



Dear Freeport School District 145 Families,

As the warm days of summer give way to the excitement of a new school year, I am delighted to welcome you back to what promises to be an engaging and rewarding 2024-2025 school year. Our staff has been working diligently to prepare for your children's return, and we are eager to embark on this educational journey together with you as our partners.

Our district wide theme for this school year is "Here for the Kids." This theme helps remind us of the WHY behind the work of all educators and their power to build a community that believes in the ability of each student to achieve great things for themselves, no matter their age and their background.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and partnership. Your involvement is crucial to your students' success, and we deeply value the strong community bonds that define our district.

As we begin this new year, I would like to share some key updates and initiatives:

1. **Academic Focus: AVID (Advanced via Individual Determination)** strategies that are designed to engage students and build higher level thinking will be incorporated into teaching across content areas. This is true as well for the IB practices at Jones Farrar IB School that build on the inquiry model to promote deep learning. Both AVID and IB strategies make learning accessible to students.
2. **Student Code of Conduct Booklet:** Each student in the district will be given a copy of the Student Code of Conduct on the first day or first week of school. Inside the booklet is a QR code that can be scanned in order to give you access to the Student /parent Handbook. You can tear out page 1 in the Student Code of Conduct booklet and send it back to your child's school as an acknowledgement that you have received a copy of both. Your child's school might have a different way of collecting your signatures. Either way will be acceptable.
3. **Facilities Improvement:**
 - After 50 years, I am proud to share that the science labs at FHS have finally received a much needed renovation. There are still finishing touches that need to be completed, but nonetheless, it is exciting to see the progress that has been made.

- Through a grant, we were able to build a brand new greenhouse in FHS that is attached to Rm. 155. This is part of our dedication to the expansion of our Agriculture program.
 - The Pretzel Stadium received a facelift this summer. The D Zones have new drain tiles so we were able to put turf where there used to be grass. Field turf replacement has been completed.
 - Center Elementary School kitchen/storage expansion is nearing its completion. This will now make meal distribution flow smoothly for students.
 - We have a new Fitness Court behind the technology building that can be used by the entire community. This was partly funded by the National Fitness Campaign and its sponsors to encourage fitness across communities.
4. We had a wonderful New Pretzel Academy where we welcomed 57 new teachers to FSD. This number includes teachers who were hired in January 2024 and our international teachers who will be serving as bilingual teachers in various schools across the district.

We are so excited to welcome all new and returning students to FSD. The principal of each school should already have communicated with families about their Back to School Night/ Meet the Teacher Night or any other back to school activities. I encourage you to stay connected with your child's school throughout the year. School nurses have also been doing outreach to remind parents /guardians about the required physical and vaccine requirements for the first day of school, depending on your child's grade level.

As we face opportunities and challenges ahead, I am filled with optimism. The resilience, creativity and dedication I have witnessed in our students, staff and families continue to inspire me. Together, we will make this year a remarkable one for our school community. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's school or the district office. We are here to support you and your family.

Here's to a year filled with growth, discovery, and achievement.

Warm regards,

Dr. Anna Alvarado,

Superintendent of Schools

Freeport School District 145