



FSD145

Freeport School District

February 19, 2021

Dear FSD 145 Staff and Families,

I am sure everyone is looking forward to next week when temperatures are expected to break the 30-degree mark. This will be a welcome relief as our students travel to and from school. Please keep those states who are experiencing devastating effects of severe weather in your thoughts.

Wednesday, February 24, we will have a 3-hour Remote Learning day, as our staff engages in School Improvement professional development during the afternoon. All students will be remote. Schedules for the 3-hour day will be provided by each school.

Sydney Pedersen to compete at IHSA State Speech Tournament



On Saturday, FHS Senior Sydney Pedersen (*pictured center, with coaches Tim & Becky Connors*) will compete in the IHSA Virtual State Speech Tournament in the categories of Informative Speaking and Original Oratory. Pedersen took first place in both events at last week's Freeport Sectional competition. We wish Sydney all the best and we will be cheering her on, Saturday. Congratulations to the following members of the FHS Speech Team who also competed at the Sectional level:

Brooke Allison
Layla Roling
Haley Thies
Josh Daggert

Macy Olson
Logan Tessendorf
Noah Redmore

Shout-out to Coach Tim Connors and his team of assistant coaches for the great work that they do with our Speech Team. **GO SYDNEY - GO PRETZELS!**

National Bus Driver/Monitor Appreciation Day

February 22, is **National School Bus Driver/Monitor Appreciation Day**. What an awesome opportunity to recognize the FSD Transportation Department for the great work they do. Led by Transportation Director Dallas Pieper, our transportation team provides service to our students, with a high level of safety and care. For many of our students, the bus ride is their first contact with us for the school day and we are grateful for our drivers and monitors who start our student's day off in a positive manner. **THANK YOU! YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**



**SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS AND MONITORS ARE
THE PEOPLE WHO TRANSPORT OUR
CHILDREN TO THEIR FUTURE.**

Thank you for taking such good
care of your precious cargo.



and thank a
bus driver
or monitor
today!

*School Bus
Driver/Monitor
Appreciation Day
Feb. 22, 2021*

Black History Month

To continue our celebration of Black History Month, this resource link has been shared with teachers and staff to engage students in dialogue around African-American history. [BlackPast.org](https://www.blackpast.org) offers a wealth of materials. Please visit this site to learn more about Past African-Americans and their contributions to society. Follow us throughout the month on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) as we highlight daily, individuals whose achievements and contributions are worthy of note. **"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."** – *Frederick Douglass, Abolitionist*

Spotlight on STEM



Known as a "human computer", **Dorothy Johnson Vaughn** was part of a NASA team that did mathematical calculations to help engineers figure out how wind and gravity affects aircrafts. When the agency desegregated, she worked on the program that launched John Glen and other astronauts into space for the first time. The accomplishments of Vaughn and other female, African American mathematicians was the focus of the book and movie "Hidden Figures". Vaughn was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal.

Spotlight on Sports



Jackie Robinson was a professional baseball player who became the first African American to play in Major League Baseball. He started at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. During his career, he won the inaugural Rookie of the Year Award, was an All-Star for six consecutive seasons, and won the National League Most Valuable Player Award. Robinson contributed to the Dodgers' 1955 World Series championship. In 1997, MLB retired his uniform number 42 across all major league teams.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Academic learning and cognitive growth are inseparably linked with social and emotional development and environments. For example, students learn best when they are focused, find information relevant and engaging, and are actively involved in learning. This requires them to have a ready and focused brain, use emotional regulation skills, and also be in an environment where they feel physically and emotionally safe, connected, included, and supported.

Below are some SEL Resources that you may find helpful .

- **Second Step COVID 19 Support Information:** <https://www.secondstep.org/covid19support>
- **SEL Moment**
- Video: [SEL for Parents](#) (Spanish)
- Video: [SEL for Parents](#) (English)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Remote Learning By Choice (RLBC)

Families who wish to change their selection to or from RLBC should follow the processes below

- **In-person to Remote-** Sign up using the [Remote Learning by Choice](#) form.
- **Remote to In-Person-** Contact the ETC at 815-232-0580 or your student's school to request a return to in-person. Return dates are offered every two weeks for the remainder of the school year.

Placement depends on openings that take into consideration building capacity, staff availability and our ability to maintain social distancing in classrooms. Elementary students may be offered a spot in a different school building if their home school capacity has been met. This is a temporary solution.

The next deadline to request a return to in-person placement is **02/23/21**. Requests received by this date will begin in-person instruction on **03/01/21**, if capacity in buildings/classrooms allow.

Physical & Immunization Requirements

If your student is switching from Remote Learning by Choice to In-Person/Hybrid the required physical examination and immunizations must be on file. [Please click here to see for more information on what students require physical exams/immunizations.](#)

FSD 145 Hiring Bus Drivers & Monitors



FSD currently has openings for school bus drivers and monitors. Persons interested in joining our Transportation team can apply [online](#).

WEEKLY REMINDERS

COVID Vaccination & Positivity Rate Updates from the Stephenson County Health Department

The overall 7-day rolling positivity rate is 5.7% in Stephenson County as of Feb.17, and 3.7% in Region 1. As of 02/18/2021, SCHD has notified us that there are 4 active student and 3 active staff cases in FSD. Information regarding our [COVID statistics](#) can be viewed on our website. Next week staff who received the first vaccination will begin receiving the second vaccination.

Grab-N-Go & Meal Delivery & Pick-up

For families signed up for **bus delivery** you will receive a delivery tomorrow, February 20. Also, tomorrow is the next pick-up date at **Carl Sandburg School (lower level parking lot, door O)** from 10 am - Noon, for Group A / Group B blended students and any remote choice learners who are not on the bus delivery route.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- 3 Hour School Improvement Day - Wednesday, February 24, 2021 - All students are remote. Schedules for the day will be provided by your child's school.
- Spring Break - March 22-26, 2021
- Special Holidays (Easter Weekend) - Friday, April 2, and Monday April 5, 2021

Feedback & Questions

If you have missed our weekly communications, you can read them here. [Weekly & Special Community Communications](#). Please call your student's schools with any questions or comments.

Thank you never seems like enough, to express the level of appreciation we have for our parents/guardians. We appreciate your commitment and your partnership. It looks like there is more snow headed our way this weekend. Stay safe and stay well.

With gratitude,

Dr. Anna Alvarado

Superintendent of Schools