



SPRING 2024

FREEDOM ACRES NEWS

Connections build the character and relationships stronger at Freedom Acres

WRITTEN BY ANGELA MILLER, PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our vibrant community where connections, perseverance, and endless possibilities shape our journey at Freedom Acres School. As we embrace the arrival of spring on our campus, I pause to reflect on the ongoing 2023-24 school year. Our commitment to excellence remains unwavering, with our foundation deeply rooted in the children we have the privilege to serve. **Every decision is centered around what is best for our students, making this year a remarkable one filled with numerous first experiences.**

Our exceptional staff exemplifies professionalism daily, serving with dedication and heart. I am immensely grateful for our team whose value surpasses words and plays a crucial role in shaping the educational experiences of our students. It is imperative to recruit individuals, who not only meet high standards of professionalism, but also uphold our cultural values, fostering strong relationships with learners, colleagues, and parents. It is with great pride that I announce the hiring of three parents as health care aides within our Severely Cognitively Impaired program, with another parent actively substituting in our school. This year, we welcomed several new substitutes, and we currently have **one job opening for an SEI teacher**. Your support in spreading the word and helping us find the perfect candidate is greatly appreciated!



Looking ahead to the next school year, we are in need of substitutes for various positions including teachers, health care aides, nurses, secretaries, kitchen assistants, and more. I encourage you to consider signing up to support our school through the ISD website and our substitute staff service, WillSub.



POVERTY SIMULATION



Effective communication is vital to our school's success. We kindly invite all parents to sign up for the Freedom Acres Remind application. Instructions for the Remind application are enclosed in this newsletter. By signing up, you will receive text messages regarding school closures and important events happening at Freedom Acres School. Additionally, the 2024-25 school calendar is included in this edition, and through Remind, you can receive reminders about key dates on our school calendar or any unscheduled school closings due to weather, power outages, or illness. Our goal is to keep you informed and supported every step of the way! As we approach the end of the 2023-24 school year, both our team of parents and staff have countless achievements and experiences to celebrate. Together, we have accomplished so much, embodying the spirit of collaboration and dedication that defines our community. I often reflect on a saying that resonates deeply with me, "The rearview mirror is small and allows only for reflection, while the windshield, large and transparent, enables each traveler to paint a canvas of new goals and experiences because the future is a blank canvas for each artist to paint and cultivate."



Winter Semester at a Glance

During the winter semester, Freedom Acres School celebrated various events and milestones including the festive Valentine's Day Dance, the successful March is Reading Month initiative to foster a love for reading, the collection of plastic eggs for the Spring Egg Fling, the completion of State Testing demonstrating student and staff commitment, and the spirited Friday theme days promoting school culture and our relational capacity between students and staff. Notably, students' donations on Friday theme days play a vital role in funding March is Reading Month prizes and supporting other student activities, showcasing the parents' and staff dedication to enhancing student experiences and engagement.

Looking Forward to the 2024–2025 School Year

Exciting Changes and Improvements

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we are excited to announce several important updates and improvements at Freedom Acres School:

Relocation of ASD Program:

- Our colleagues and students in the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) program will relocate to a spacious building designed to meet their specific needs starting in July.
- The ASD Early Childhood Special Education (ESCE) classroom will remain at Freedom Acres, with continued support from Director Ben Woolston.

Facility Enhancements:

- The Freedom Acres conference room will be moved to the center of the building, featuring an exterior exit to enhance security and community access.
- The Principal's office will be relocated to the former conference room, optimizing space usage.

Playground Upgrades:

- The playground for our youngest learners will be upgraded with new Little Tykes equipment and improved ground cover, creating a more engaging and safe play environment.

Technology and Training Grants:

- We are thrilled to announce the approval of a grant for two 86" Clevertouch SmartBoards. These interactive boards will benefit our SEI (Severely Emotionally Impaired) and SCI (Severely Cognitively Impaired) teams, enhancing classroom technology and interactive learning.
- Additionally, a grant has been approved for staff training with Bal-A-VIS-X, which will support the professional development of our SEI, SCI, ISD Occupational Therapists (OTs), and Physical Therapists (PTs).

These updates reflect our ongoing commitment to providing a supportive and enriching environment for our students and staff. We are excited about the opportunities these changes will bring and look forward to a successful and innovative 2024-25 school year.



**WE ARE EXCITED TO
ANNOUNCE SEVERAL
IMPORTANT UPDATES AND
IMPROVEMENTS AT
FREEDOM ACRES SCHOOL**

Playground and Future Projects Update

Playground Update

We are incredibly blessed to have a beautiful play space at Freedom Acres School, which our deserving students thoroughly enjoy. However, we face some challenges in maintaining the cleanliness and safety of our playground. Recently, we've had issues with litter left by visitors and chewing gum stuck on the rubberized surface, creating sticky problems for students, staff, and maintenance.

Future Projects: Wheelchair Swing

One of our dreams is to install a wheelchair swing, a project that has garnered significant support. However, there are specific requirements we must meet to ensure safety and compliance. These include:

- Fencing: A fence around the wheelchair swing to prevent the risk of harm from the swing striking someone who walks too close.
- Rubberized Play Surface: Ensuring a safe and accessible surface underneath the swing.

The estimated cost for installing a wheelchair swing, including the necessary fencing and rubberized surface, is between \$40,000 and \$50,000. This investment will greatly enhance our playground's inclusivity and accessibility, providing all students with a safe and enjoyable play environment.

Principal's Personal Perspective

Being a grandparent is the absolute best! Recently, my grandson Lukka, spent the night, and we made so many wonderful memories together, including enjoying warm chocolate chip cookies. It's hard to believe that Lukka is already a year and a half old! Time truly flies.

I am blessed to be part of a family that loves attending concerts and meeting musicians. Our travels have taken us to many wonderful locations in Michigan and other states, creating cherished memories along the way.

I am also fortunate to have three amazing sons and a wonderfully supportive husband. Recently, my middle son, Conner, became engaged to Emily German. We are excited to welcome Emily into our family and look forward to making many more memories together.

Each day is a blessing with a gift! I am so lucky to live and serve in Ionia County. Being the principal of Freedom Acres is truly a notable honor and brings me great joy!

Warm regards and heartfelt thanks to each family, community member, and organization for your continued partnership in supporting our school. Together, we create a nurturing and enriching environment for our children to thrive.

With gratitude,
Angela Miller

Angela Miller, Freedom Acres School



SUMMER HEALTH TIPS

SUN SAFETY

SUMMER SKIN PROTECTION



WEAR BROAD HAT



USE SUNGLASSES



WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING



AVOID DIRECT SUNLIGHT



AVOID SUN BETWEEN 11 AM AND 3 PM



USE SUNSCREEN



DRINK MORE WATER



REFLECTION CAUTION



SEEK SHADE

Health News from Nurse Becky

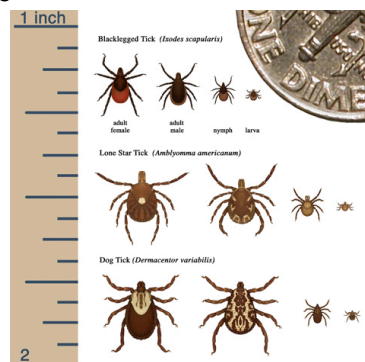
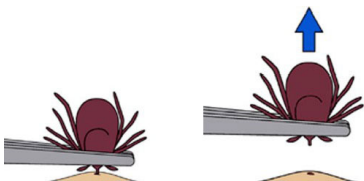
Spring in Michigan

As we welcome spring in Michigan, we also welcome ticks and mosquitos. Ticks are prevalent in Ionia County and have been known to carry Lyme disease. It is important to prevent disease, and remove ticks as soon as possible.



Ways to Prevent Tick Bites

- P Avoiding areas with lots of ticks such as grassy, brushy, or wooded areas
- P Checking skin regularly when outdoors
- P Checking clothing regularly when outdoors
- P Checking pets regularly
- P Use of repellents



How to Remove a Tick

1. Use clean, fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you cannot remove the mouth easily with tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
4. Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by
 - o Putting it in alcohol,
 - o Placing it in a sealed bag/container,
 - o Wrapping it tightly in tape, or
 - o Flushing it down the toilet.

For more information about ticks and tick borne disease, go to www.cdc.gov/ticks

Please remember to call Freedom Acres 616-527-2921 to report your child's absence.

Elementary School with Mrs. April Cavanaugh

What is Happening in YSEI?

WRITTEN BY APRIL, CASSIDY AND KATHY M



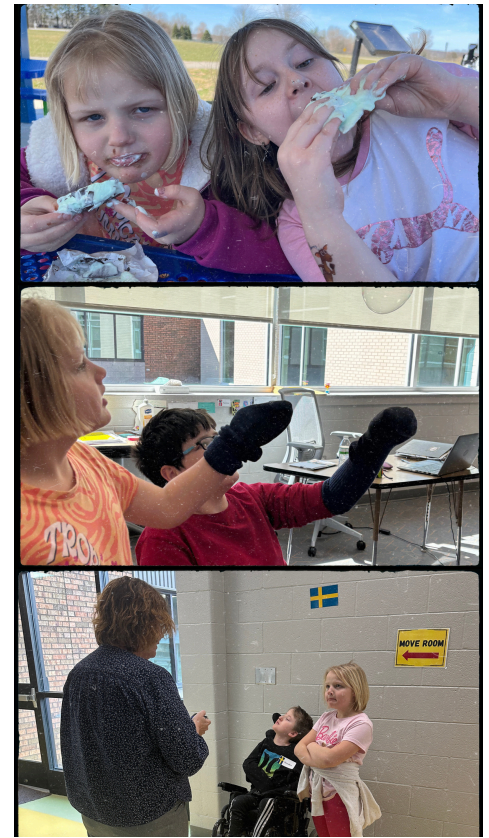
It is hard to believe we are closing in on summer! The weather has been beautiful and we have been taking advantage of outdoor activities, playing baseball in P.E., teaching our students the game of 4 square, and enjoying our playground.

After spring break we had M-Step testing. All the students did a great job and earned MooVille on the last day of testing.

We are ending our school year with some fun activities; tie-dyeing shirts, planting flowers, field day, and of course school work!

Our school year has been very successful and rewarding. Watching our students gain confidence in their academic skill has been awesome. Our TRAILS groups have helped our students grow their social emotional and coping skills which help them manage emotions with greater ease on a daily basis.

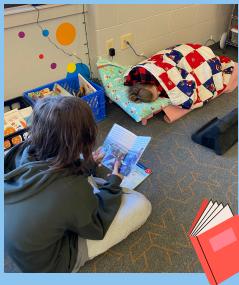
I hope summer brings lots of family, friends, and fun! We are looking forward to the 2024-25 school year. See you in August!



Middle School with Ms. Abby Bailey

Together in Success

WRITTEN BY ABBY, NATASHA, AND KACI



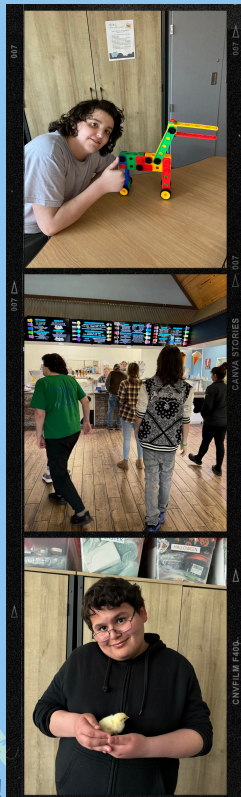
Is the school year over already? Wow, what a fun and wild ride this year has been. Let's see, what has happened in the last couple months..... The class had the wonderful opportunity of gaining another classmate at the tail end of December, so we started the new year with 5 students in Mrs. Bailey's classroom. Our class really enjoyed going to the Valentine's Day dance and getting their groove on! Most of them stayed at the dance the whole time and partied like rock stars.

We have had many academic successes this spring! Each student had been working hard at gaining percentages in their classes, and two learners even finished a couple classes by the end of the year! Waaaawhoooo!

The class successfully navigated through the state testing in April and did so well with it that they earned a trip to Mooville together. They enjoyed getting out of the classroom and into the community together.

Ms. Abby brought in three of her baby chicks for the students to see. They really enjoyed seeing them and playing with them. The students learned how fragile baby chickens are and how fast they grow.

Rounding out the year, we have shared lots of laughter together, encountered many new experiences, and each student has grown in so many ways. There was never a dull moment in our classroom. We hope everyone has a wonderful, fun-filled summer and we are already looking forward to seeing you at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year!



High School with Mrs. Jessica Rodgers

Three Cheers for Growth!

WRITTEN BY JESSICA, GINA AND MEGAN H

What an amazing opportunity the 2023-2024 school year has presented to the USEI classroom family! We have been given the gift of growth in both academics and in social emotional learning.

Our learners have delved deep into their academics this year; many students completing multiple classes as they continue on their academic journey. These moments have allowed for personalized certificates to be printed, laminated, and delivered to each student as we cheer them on and watch them grow.

TRAILS, led by the amazing Ms. Elizabeth, has allowed for self-regulation, coping skills, and awareness to take center stage in many of our learner's lives. Watching them continue to choose to implement these new found ways of looking at life has allowed for maturity to blossom and personal growth within our classroom. The cheers for these moments with our learners were loud, but they were so deserved!

Our skill sets were challenged, especially with some new dance moves as we continued to enjoy Recreational Adaptive Physical Education with the fabulous Ms. Emily! The students have enjoyed having choice and options with their APE curriculum and diversity of games/activities offered to them each week. The level of excitement and the decibel of cheering that happened each time a peer was successful in their athletic endeavor allowed for pride to swell inside each professional within the classroom.

We are so thankful for the rich opportunities that are offered to our students, the opportunity to make great academic gains, to develop self-regulation skills, and the opportunity to explore different recreational activities to keep our minds busy and our bodies moving.

However, the biggest amount of cheering and appreciation is coming from Ms. Jessica as we round out the end of the school year. I thank each of you for every opportunity and every moment of support you have given me the last eight years. When I accepted the opportunity to support learners at Freedom Acres, I could have never known what my future held for me.

Throughout my time, I have had the pleasure of being supported through the highest of highs in life and the lowest of lows. I have heard my students and my professional peers cheer me on as I welcomed two children into the world, I have leaned hard on those around me as I processed my father passing away, and I celebrated as I completed my Masters Degree in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Special Education.

Because of the constant cheering, support, and growth, I am ending my last year at Freedom Acres as I begin the transition into administration with a school building outside of the Ionia Intermediate School District.

I am truly who I am today because of you! Whether you were a student, a parent, or a colleague of mine, you matter in my story and I am thankful for you.

I wish you nothing but the best and I will always be cheering for you as you continue to grow in your own story.

Adaptive PE with Mrs. Emily Stall

Let's Get Physical!

WRITTEN BY EMILY S

Adapted Physical Education provides all learners the opportunity to engage in physical activity and improve their physical fitness, motor skills, and overall health. It also promotes socialization, independence, confidence, and self-esteem. Here at Freedom Acres learners are able to interact with peers through a variety of sports and recreational activities. I truly believe there is something for everyone!



Since January, we have had the opportunity to participate in such sports as **baseball** and **basketball**. We have also explored recreational activities such as **mini golf** and **dance**. I am very proud of the accomplishments and growth **ALL** learners have achieved this school year. I am hopeful they will continue to be engaged in movement activities throughout the summer.

This year has been amazing and I am grateful to be a part of your student's learning experience. I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer break and look forward to reconnecting in the fall for another exciting year of learning and growth.



PreK/Elementary SCI with Mrs. Stephanie Brown

Students are Blooming!



WRITTEN BY STEPH, ASHLEY, STACIE, AND TYLER

The flowers are blooming and our students are too! This spring we have seen a lot of growth in all of our students. It has been so much fun to see more socialization between peers during play activities. We have been working on different play skills, taking turns, and of course increasing skills in the areas of fine motor, gross motor, and communication.

Mrs. Emily continues to provide fun weekly events that all of the students love! We did Olympic events, a Valentine's Day Dance, basketball, miniature golf, and baseball. The students also love their Tuesday Speech/OT groups where Mrs. Sue, Mr. Jacob, and Mrs. Kara come in and do a literacy activity featuring our "word of the week" and also a fine motor activity to go along with it. Mrs. Deb provides fun animated books each week in the library and makes sure that we have lots of interesting books available to us. Ms. Kacey and Mrs. Brenda come in each week and help us make our kiddos' muscles stronger. It is hard work but the students can do hard things! Our students at Freedom Acres are so lucky to have such wonderful itinerant staff.



We hope that everyone has a great summer and enjoys the beautiful weather! We sure will!



Middle School SCI with Mr. Ben Croel

Connection is Key

WRITTEN BY BEN, GWEN, HEATHER AND KIM K

The 2023-2024 school year is coming to a close and this has been one of the best years of my teaching career. I enjoy the students in this classroom so much and appreciate the effort that you make to get them here each and every day. It has been a pleasure to get to know each student individually and find ways to make a personal connection with them. I appreciate the effort that the students give each day and the smiles they put on the faces of the staff here in the classroom. They work so hard on their goals, which shows in the progress that they are making. In addition to the students, I have enjoyed getting to know you and sincerely appreciate the help and support you have provided us here in the classroom.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to get to know you and your children as we move into the 2024-2025 school year. I hope you have a wonderful Summer!



THANK YOU



Elementary ASD with Miss Khloe Kremer

Let's Work Together!

WRITTEN BY KHLOE, MEGAN R, MEG A, TAYLOR, KENDRA, RYLEIGH, AND SYDNEY

The ASD preschool students have made tremendous growth throughout the school year! Expanding their vocabulary through requesting, labeling and increasing their receptive skills, they are making leaps and bounds! We have been trying new activities in the classroom to help facilitate peer interaction. The past couple of weeks we have been working on turn taking with different board games, working together to put puzzles together, tie-dyeing shirts and having storytimes to look at new books. With the nicer weather, we are able to be outside more and play in the sandbox at purple dinosaur and on the playground equipment where we see a lot of parallel play. With summer approaching fast, we are focusing on maintaining skills and can't wait to see the milestones the preschoolers will meet next year.



Middle School ASD with Miss Katelyn Burns

Things are Changing!

WRITTEN BY KATELYN, ALAINA, KATIE AND ERIC

Since the fall/winter newsletter there have been many changes to the Middle School ASD room!

I have been blessed to welcome new staff into my room. We have 3 new HCAs that have started and are doing amazing with the students. Ashley LaBean, Katie Misner, and Eric Butler have been a wonderful addition to the classroom. With the new personnel, Alaina Denney has been a great role model for the new HCAs. Jaime Girvin is now the full time HCA mentor in the ASD programs at Freedom Acres and she always brings her positive energy to the classroom!

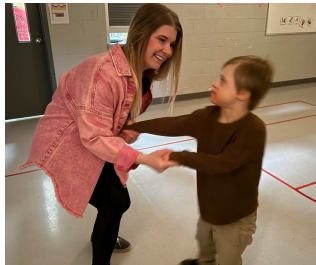
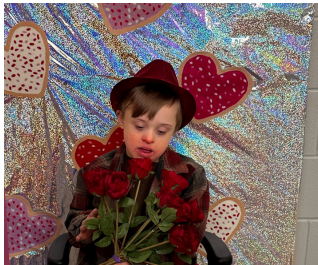
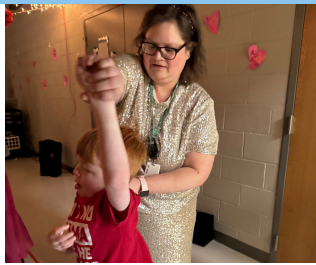
We have started implementing classroom jobs with an emphasis on daily life skills and the students are really starting to take ownership of their jobs. The students have finished up their state testing and they did marvelous! Both staff and students are excited for the warmer weather so that we can get outside and do fun activities! We are looking forward to finishing the school year strong!

It's a Great Day to be a Falcon!

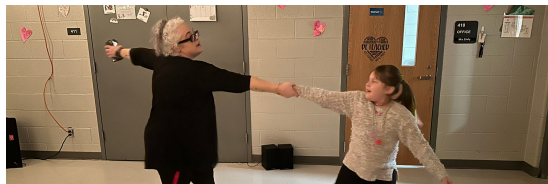




VALENTINE'S DANCE



sweet
VALENTINE



FA FIELD DAY



High School ASD with Ms. Maria Olvera

Building Our Independence

WRITTEN BY MARIA, ERIN AND BILL

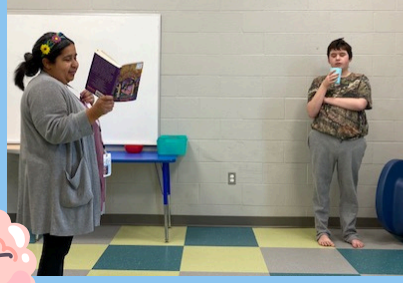
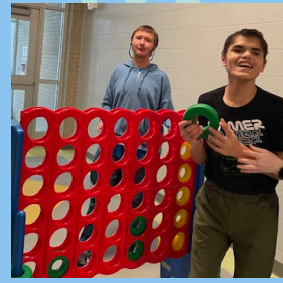
As the year draws to a close, Team Olvera is very excited about all we have learned.

We have enjoyed reading about Harry Potter and all of his friends at Hogwarts. Reading is a lifelong leisure activity, and we look forward to following Harry on many more adventures.

We are continuing to work on building our independence skills in our daily chores. This spring our class is leaning green as we have learned how to break down boxes for recycling and practiced returning cans at Meijer.



Throughout the winter and spring we have watched a new building develop from the ground up. We are very excited about moving into our new space this summer and taking advantage of daily access to a life skills lab.



Behavior Coach Ms. Elizabeth Dreja

Circles and Transformation

WRITTEN BY ELIZABETH



Hello fellow Falcons! I cannot believe that summer break has arrived and finished another enriching and rewarding school year! I have been working with the SEI elementary, middle and high school students to develop strong social emotional skills, which included learning new coping skills to manage difficult emotions as well as exploring new ways to deal with conflict by forming restorative circles. Restorative circles are designed to bring people together by honoring each student with respect and dignity by listening to their voices. Circles are intended to repair harm that may have occurred due to a difficult situation or meant to process a significant event that may have occurred.

Using both the TRAILS Social-Emotional learning curriculum and trauma-informed restorative practices, the classrooms have transformed into safe environments where students are making lasting, meaningful connections with one another. Some of my favorite memories from this school year include being a judge during the Olympic figure skating competition in Adaptive Physical Education and tie-dyeing t-shirts in the Spring! I love seeing the different expressions of student creativity during these fun activities! Looking forward to making more memories with Falcon students and staff next year! Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Restorative Practices

We use the questions below to guide challenging discussions between students and staff. The questions are as follows:

- What happened?**
- What were you thinking at the time?**
- What have you thought about since?**
- Who has been impacted and how?**
- What has been the hardest thing for you?**
- What needs to happen to make things right?**

For additional information on restorative practices you can visit the following site to learn more!

<https://www.iirp.edu/>

Speech Therapy with Sue Wizorek

WOW!

WRITTEN BY SUE

I can't believe that the school year is nearing the end! I will continue to see students over the summer, but with our reduced schedule, I'll miss seeing them every day! During the summer, we have group sessions with occupational therapy, which typically consists of a book read focusing on our word of the week. Occupational therapy helps the students with an activity and we continue using our words to tie it all together. Our summer themes, which are a lot of fun, revolve around our word of the week as well. If you look at the summer schedule, you can follow our themes throughout the summer.

If you come into the school, you will see our core words and word of the week everywhere. Frequent exposure is the key to gaining meaning and our learners are showing great growth in interacting with the vocabulary! You might also notice that more of our learners are using communication devices to express themselves. We have learners using PECS, core boards, "eye gaze" speech generating devices, and direct select communication devices. Our learners are immersed in language throughout their day and it is amazing to see their growth.

I continue to provide support to teachers and families in helping our learners find a voice -- any way to communicate! If you have any questions, or would like to talk with me about your learner's communication needs, you are always welcome to contact me at 616-489-2064



Visual Therapy with Amy Blunt

Eye Spy Something Shiny!

WRITTEN BY AMY

As the 2023-2024 school year comes to a close, I wanted to thank all of you for allowing me the pleasure and gift of working with your children. The smiles and laughter that I receive from them make my heart smile. This semester we have worked finding and tracking shiny objects (pom-poms, ribbon, etc.). discovering color preferences, visually latency and which field of vision is preferred.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and enjoy some fun in the sun. If you any specific questions for me, please contact me at ablunt@ioniaisd.org.

*"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."
Helen Keller*



Occupational Therapy with Jacob Heppe

We Love Music!

WRITTEN BY JACOB, OTR/L AND KARA, COTA

It's hard to believe the year is almost over. Here in the OT department we have loved getting the students outside with the warm weather and seeing how the weather really does have a positive impact on our students. All students need movement and outside play so it is good to get them out on our beautiful playground and open up their senses to the smells, sights, and feelings of the warm weather.



Some things we have been working on in the classroom focus on motor imitation skills or working on activities of daily living. We have seen lots of increased participation in our OT/SLP groups with students communicating via their functional communication systems and interacting with paint, stickers, glue, and other craft items. Looking forward to seeing everyone this summer and I hope everyone has some type of vacation planned!



Physical Therapy with Brenda Brown

Strengthen Those Muscles!

WRITTEN BY BRENDA PT AND KACEY PTA

Happy Spring and heading into Summer.

We are having a lot of fun this spring working on goals throughout the school as well as out on the playground. We love to have the kids work on functional play skills and mobility on various surfaces and utilize gait trainers outside as well. Students are loving being outside when the weather allows and are making great gains. We also have several adaptive bikes that fit the students and allow them some recreational time along with strengthening their muscles. We continue to support student's needs with wheelchairs, braces and other assistive devices and are able to assist in many ways. We do have Mary Free Bed Orthotics that is able to come out and fit students for braces as needed. Let Brenda Brown, PT know if you have any needs and she can assist you.

It is exciting to see students making great progress towards their mobility goals.



As always Physical Therapy will be servicing students in the summer and well.



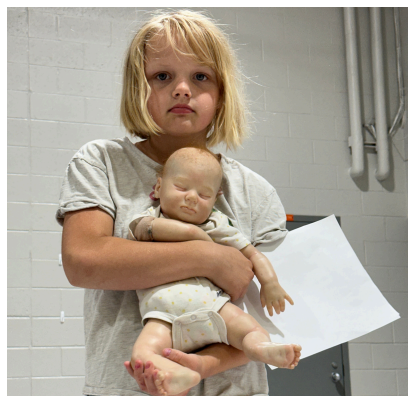
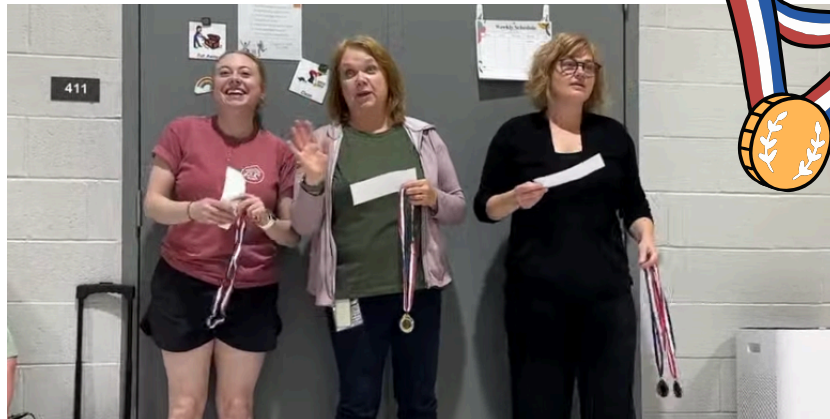
Please reach out if you have any questions or needs for equipment, braces and or ideas for your student related to PT. My email is bbrown@ioniaisd.org.

FA EGGSTRAVAGANZA

A huge thank you to everyone who donated plastic eggs for the egg hunt! The egg collection contest was exciting, as each class competed to collect the most eggs. It was a tight competition, but Miss Khloe's class emerged victorious with the highest number of donations.



WE'VE GOT TALENT!



MISCELLANEOUS

PTO

REASONS TO JOIN PTO

1. Benefit Your Child!

Research shows that children perform better when parents are involved both at home and school.

2. Get Connected!

There is no better way to know what's happening at school.

3. Tap into a Network!

Connects you to other parents and teachers, helping to build a sense of community.

4. Witness Improvements

By getting involved you'll be part of the solution-helping to make positive changes.

Contact Brandy Durrant if you'd like to join!
brandydurrant22@gmail.com

Thank you PTO!

Staff and students appreciate all the support and recognition from PTO.



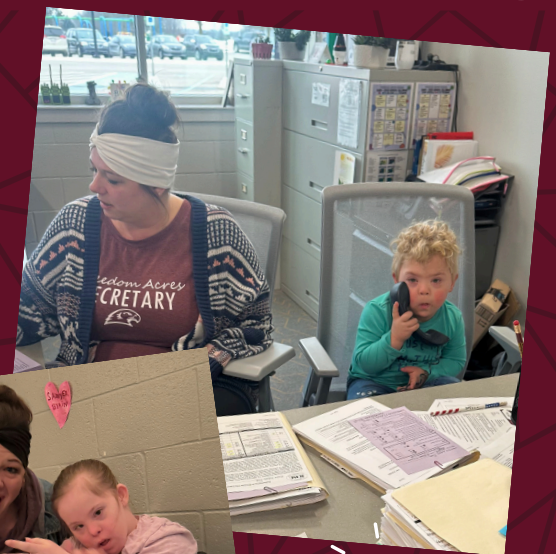
Maintenance

Maintenance staff not only shovel snow and tidy up after us but also build connections with our learners. We express our gratitude for looking out for us!



Mr. Jeff,
I WANT
A
X
T
MOUSE
CAGE.
LOVE,
JEFF

"Selfies" with the Secretary



FA HAPPENINGS

SEI TEACHER POSITION

OVERVIEW OF POSITION:

To provide high quality, specially designed instruction to students with disabilities.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Valid Michigan teaching certificate, with approval by the Michigan Department of Education in an area of special education;
- Ability to program for and motivate students to develop to their fullest potential in the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains;
- Interpersonal skills which promote positive personal relationships with students, parents, staff and community.

STARTING DATE:

August 2024

SALARY:

Per IIEA Master Agreement

WORK SCHEDULE:

Hours per day may vary;
184 days / school calendar

SUPERVISOR:

Principal of Freedom Acres

APPLY ONLINE AT:

www.ioniaisd.org/employment
or scan the QR code



SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYMENT

To apply to work as a substitute Para-educator or Teacher

Looking for full-time, permanent employment through the ISD? Most employees who are hired as a Health Care Aide or Teacher are found via the ESS/Willsub substitute system.

Apply at www.willsub.com

Submitting a completed application does not guarantee or ensure any offer of employment with ESS/Willsub or any of its client districts or affiliates.



Fingerprinting Information

If you have already applied to work as a Substitute through ESS/Willsub, please do the following:

- Call the Ionia County ISD (616-527-4900) for instructions, or stop by the ISD's office (8 am - 2 pm) to receive the appropriate paperwork to enable you to be fingerprinted.
- If you have had your fingerprints taken through another school district, contact Theresa Wiles (616-527-4900) to obtain a Criminal History Release form.

ESS/Willsub will not start your second phase of paperwork until the fingerprint results are received by the Ionia County ISD.



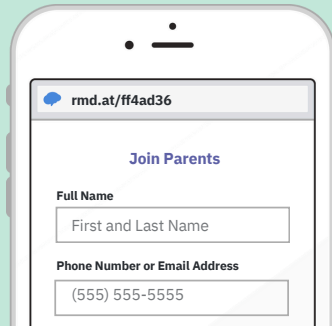
Pick a way to receive messages for **Parents**:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/ff4ad36

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @ff4ad36 to the number **81010**.

If you're having trouble with **81010**, try texting @ff4ad36 to **(423) 933-2899**.

* Standard text message rates apply.



THANKFUL FOR DONATIONS

We are extremely grateful to our donors! Our learners greatly appreciate the new equipment, books, supplies, and financial contributions.



Ashley Proctor

Gwen O'Mara

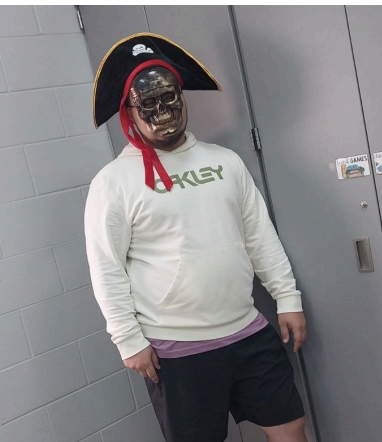
Dianne Shoup

Ionia Knights of Columbus Council #944

Portland Knights of Columbus Council #2168

Saranac Knights of Columbus Council #11113

FREEDOM ACRES STAFF FUN



FREEDOM ACRES

2024 - 2025

TENTATIVE

DPPD schedule
still being
determined

AUGUST

- 19 NO SCHOOL
Staff DPPD #1
- 21 First Day of School
- 29 Back to School
Cookout
- 30 NO SCHOOL
Labor Day Weekend

SEPTEMBER

- 02 NO SCHOOL
Labor Day Weekend
- 16 NO SCHOOL
Staff DPPD #2
- 17 NO SCHOOL
Staff DPPD #3
- 25 Freedom Acres 5K

OCTOBER

- 02 Picture Day *Count Day*
- 14 End of 1st Marking
Period **SCI**
- 25 End of 1st Marking
Period **SEI / ECSE**
- 31 Half Day *Morning Only*

NOVEMBER

- 01 NO SCHOOL
Staff DPPD #4
- 27 NO SCHOOL
*Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 27-29*

DECEMBER

- 18 Freedom Acres
Christmas Party
- 23 NO SCHOOL
Winter Break
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3

JANUARY

- 01 Winter Break Cont.
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3
- 09 End of 2nd Marking
Period **SCI**
- 17 End of 2nd Marking
Period **SEI / ECSE**
- 20 NO SCHOOL
Staff DPPD #5

FEBRUARY

- 13 Sweetheart Dance
- 14 NO SCHOOL
*Mid-Winter Break
Feb. 14 - 17*

MARCH

- 10 Half Day
Afternoon Only
- 21 NO SCHOOL
Staff DPPD #6
- 25 End of 3rd Marking
Period **SCI**
- 28 End of 3rd Marking
Period **SEI / ECSE**

APRIL

- 04 NO SCHOOL
Friday before Spring Break
- 07 NO SCHOOL
Spring Break
Apr. 7 - 11
- 18 NO SCHOOL

MAY

- 23 Half Day
Morning Only
- 26 NO SCHOOL
Memorial Day

JUNE

- 04 Last Day of School
- 04 End of 4th Marking
Period **SEI / ECSE**
- 26 End of 4th Marking
Period **SCI**

OFFICE HOURS:

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM

STUDENT HOURS:

8:00 AM - 2:05 PM

TO REPORT ABSENCES:

(616) 527-2921