

# Freedom Academy

# FREEDOM FLYER



Jan. 11th, 2012

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Freedom Academy Parents,

We hope you enjoyed your long and warm winter vacation and are ready to jump back into the busy school calendar as we wrap up our first semester of the year. We look forward to continued success during the next few months.

Please visit our website for news! We are currently redesigning our website and our school logo for our new name change. Freedom Academy has become Freedom Preparatory Academy aka Freedom Prep and FPA. This takes a little getting used to, but by fall we will all be in the new habit.

We congratulate Kim Flewallen, our French and Math teacher for a successful grant award. She is building a unit of high powered calculators for her students and teaching them the wide range of skills they can gain by using them.

Mary Alice Bender, our eighth grade Language Arts and Journalism teacher has also been awarded a grant for equipment used in her classes by the students. Digital cameras and a voice recorder will greatly enhance the experience for her students in these areas.

Due to the ever and ongoing budget crunch, we encourage all of our teachers to pursue grant funding for various projects and lessons during each school year. Is your child's teacher actively pursuing grants to enrich the classroom? There are billions of dollars available to schools and we are working our hardest to carve out a share to benefit our students. If you are aware of any innovative or unique projects that might fit our curriculum, please don't hesitate in sharing those with us. Any enrichment we can provide will support our student scholars and increase their learning experience here.

**Enrollment is fully underway for the 2012-13 school year** and we are not only inviting new kindergartners, but creating our very first 9<sup>th</sup> grade class. Please spread the word that Freedom Preparatory Academy continues to be one of the stellar charter schools in the state and will have a few openings for next fall. Interested parents should stop by the school to pick up the application form. Lottery applications are due by Feb. 17th. New families will be scheduled for get acquainted conferences during the following weeks.

Remember that Freedom is NOT a neighborhood

school but a SCHOOL OF CHOICE, meaning that we seek those families who are fully engaged and seeking the BEST in educational opportunities for their children. They become partners with FPA in providing the skills and experiences that will make them the finest leaders in tomorrow's communities and world. New families are invited to attend a public OPEN HOUSE on JANUARY 30th from 9:00 – 5:00 p.m. There they will learn about our mission, school culture of success, programs, activities, plans for our high school and especially the new 9<sup>th</sup> grade and tour the school. Please see the upcoming newflash and fliers about the great drawing we will have as an incentive to get our current families and students involved in recruiting families to FPA. Excitement is high!

We are seeking a few parents to join us on a College Readiness advisory committee. As we initiate our first year of high school, we are hoping to design some paths and support framework that will best prepare our students to not only graduate FPA, but be highly successful as they move on into the university setting. If you or anyone you know works in the academic university area and would like to be part of this committee, please contact the front office before March 1st. It will not be time consuming and we appreciate any assistance you might provide.

Mrs. Whiteside will have a BYU student teacher this semester. Mrs. Labrum also has another BYU art intern. Welcome to Freedom Prep!

One of the reasons people love working in education is that it provides such a justified reason to continue to quench the thirst for lifetime learning. Last year, I discussed some recent research that looked at the **eleven factors of highly successful schools**. The results were divided into three areas.

### School Level

1. Guaranteed and viable curriculum
2. Challenging goals and effective feedback
3. Parent and community involvement
4. Safe and orderly environment
5. Collegiality and professionalism

### Teacher Level

1. Instructional strategies
2. Classroom management
3. Classroom curriculum design

### Student Level

1. Home environment
2. Learned intelligence and background knowledge
3. Motivation

A very recent book, Inside Urban Charter Schools, on highly successful charter schools stated that there are **four indicators of parent commitment** to the school:

1. Parent volunteer hours

2. Rate of completion of daily homework by child
3. High attendance of the child
4. Child's academic success

More and more we are finding that it is unique families who are attracted to and become highly successful in charter schools. They are the ones who seem to value the quality and thoroughness of daily education for their children. They make themselves available for their part of the partnership and they find satisfaction in what is happening at their school of choice. Education today is becoming a platter of healthy choices and options for the engaged and caring parent. When you look at the world ahead and what/how our students today will be working and living, it is imperative that parents step to the highest level of caring and commitment to gain the best preparation and education available.

I believe that Freedom Preparatory Academy has proven its standards, mission and vision in the past years and is fully ready to venture on creating that seamless K-12 experience that our students so richly deserve.

Stay tuned for the exciting things happening this month such as our Spelling Bee, Science Fair and parent open house to view projects, and the school-wide Open House on January 30<sup>th</sup> for new families.

We appreciate the confidence that parents have in our school program and for their unwavering support in our continued efforts to make this the top ranked school not only in the state but in the nation and beyond.

Stay warm and healthy,  
Mrs. Herring

\* Please see the following page for our Calendar Updates and other exciting information.

# Expansion Update

Expansion meetings are continuing regularly. Some of the items we're focusing on right now are enrollment, scheduling, seminary options, building design, & scholarship opportunities. Please stop by the library during the open house on January 30th to check out the high school dress code and other updates.

## Calendar Updates

**January 18** - School Spelling Bee 9:00 AM

**January 20** - T-shirt and jeans day

**January 26** - Science Fair Grades 4-8

Science Fair Open house 6-8 PM

**January 30** - Open House 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

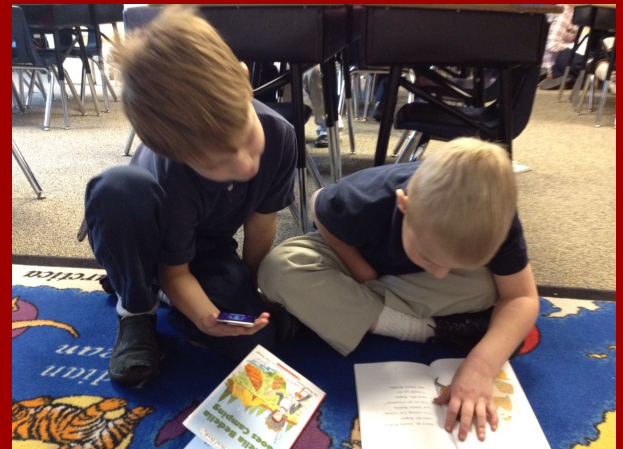
**February 6** - Charter School Day at Capitol Hill

We'd like to thank all of the families who brought in oranges for the Food Bank! Our school was able to donate 283 lbs. of oranges!

We'd also like to thank you for all of your donations for the food drive. We collected 2211 cans for the Food Bank.

## Technology in the Classrooms!

Beginning in January of this year i-touch's were introduced to our K-3 classrooms. Each classroom has 2 and they are used in the literacy curriculum.





# **Come and Support our Girls' and Boys' Basketball Teams!**

## **Girls' Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Home/Away</b>	<b>Time</b>
January 12	Reagan	Away/Reagan	4:30 PM
January 17	BYE	BYE	4:30 PM
January 19	Maeser	Home	4:30 PM
January 24	Reagan	Home	4:30 PM
January 26	Lakeview	Away/Lakeview	4:30 PM
January 31	Maeser	Home	4:30 PM
February 2	BYE	BYE	4:30 PM
February 7	Lakeview	Home	4:30 PM
February 9	Maeser	Away/Maeser	4:30 PM
February 14	Reagan	Away/Reagan	4:30 PM
February 16	Lakeview	Home	4:30 PM

## **Boys' Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Home/Away</b>	<b>Time</b>
January 12	Reagan	Away/Reagan	5:30 PM
January 17	BYE	BYE	5:30 PM
January 19	Maeser	Home	5:30 PM
January 24	Reagan	Home	5:30 PM
January 26	Lakeview	Away/Lakeview	5:30 PM
January 31	Maeser	Home	5:30 PM
February 2	BYE	BYE	5:30 PM
February 7	Lakeview	Home	5:30 PM
February 9	Maeser	Away/Maeser	5:30 PM
February 14	Reagan	Away/Reagan	5:30 PM
February 16	Lakeview	Home	5:30 PM

