



# Freedom Crossing Academy

## March 2022



**Dear Falcon Families,**

Happy March! I hope you and your families enjoyed time together during *Spring Break*. Our teachers and students have been working hard all school year and as we prepare for state and district assessments, I'd like to share some tips and a few thoughts. The following link from Edmentum focuses on simple tips for parents to help your student perform his or her best on testing days

<https://blog.edmentum.com/8-tips-help-your-child-prepare-high-stakes-tests>

#7 truly resonated with me:

**Keep testing in perspective.** No single test is *that* important. Avoid putting too much emphasis on your child's test scores-doing so can make your child feel pressure that will ultimately only affect his or her performance negatively. It's also important to not be upset by a single test score. Low test scores can occur for any number of reasons; it may have just been an off day for your child. (I also think sleep and nutrition play a valuable role when taking test).

Additionally, it seems for some of us that as soon as the word *test* or *assessment* is implied many students (adults included) have anxieties start to build up. The attached link from the FLDOE offers some ideas to help students cope with these feelings.

<https://www.fl DOE.org/core/fileparse.php/16294/urlt/RelaxationTech.pdf>

### **Town Hall Meeting**

The March 22<sup>nd</sup> Town Hall meeting was held make proposals to the school board regarding rezoning recommendations for the 22-23 and 23-24 school years. Again, I thank our families for voicing concerns regarding Freedom Crossing Academy. At this time there is no decision on rezoning. Recommendations for the 22-23 school year to the School Board included moving approximately 180 students from Freedom Crossing to Patriot Oaks Academy. Once the board makes a final decision, we will work to support any transitions that may occur.

### **Good News!**

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, the Middle School Student Ambassadors provided an engaging presentation and a tour of the campus for community leaders in the Leadership St. Johns Class of 2022. Thank you to Bev Slough, our School Board member and our amazing student leaders for welcoming our guests and teaching our guests about the "FCA Way."

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Field Day was held last week . Thank you to the PE teachers and Resource teachers for making this amazing day happen. K-2 will enjoy Field Day on Wednesday, 3/30.

Last night our 5<sup>th</sup> FCA Orff Ensemble held an amazing concert along with our incredible Middle School Jazz Ensemble. Thank you to our fabulous band director Laurie Zentz and music teachers, Natasha Coleman and Jeremy Price for your dedication to our students and the arts.

Additionally, congratulations to our Middle School Band students and director for being awarded the highest grade of Superior at the Florida Bandmasters Association Music Performance Assessment.

Congratulations to our Girls Basketball team and coaches! They had a great season and made it to the K-8 Championship.



# Freedom Crossing Academy

## March 2022



Congratulations to Emma York as she represents Freedom Crossing and St. Johns County School District in the State Science Fair. Her project is titled “ **Testing the Impact of Different Fin Lengths on a Heat Sink with a Thermoelectric Cooler (TEC)**”. Good Luck to Emma from all of Freedom Crossing!

### Welcome New Falcons

April Goyzueta - 5th grade ESE Teacher  
Debbie Raab – MS ESE Paraprofessional  
Kerrianna Beckman - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science  
Judith Everett – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Interventionist

### School News:

The 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade playground is being moved so additional relocatables (portables) can be added this summer. The goal was to have the playground moved over the break. Unfortunately, the rain saturated the ground which has delayed the move. It is temporary and should be resolved soon. We also have in the works an additional play structure for next school year.

### March Character Counts

In March, we focus the on the **Pillar of Trustworthiness** – Be honest, don’t deceive, cheat, or steal. Be reliable-do what you say you’ll do. Have the courage to do the right thing. Build good reputations. Be loyal-stand by your family, friends and country. <https://ccstjohns.com/>

### COVID Update

The Department of Health released an update to their DOH Rule 64DER21-15. In DOH Rule 64DER21-15, a positive student is allowed to return to school after a 10-day quarantine, no fever, and symptoms are improving. This new DOH Rule adjusts that students may return to school after a 5-day quarantine, no fever, and symptoms are improving.

Please see our district website for more information at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/covid-19/>

### Safety Update

#### Safety Drills

We continue to conduct “situational” fire drills and a live lock down drills. Situational drills are discussion-based conversations in the classrooms with teachers and students and live drills have students practice a lock down scenario. These types of drills occur district wide.

### Fortify Florida

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows students or parents to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. By accessing FortifyFL at <https://getfortifyfl.com/> or <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/blog/fortifyfl-app/>, individuals can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. The Office of Attorney General, Department of Education and Florida Department of Law Enforcement coordinated its development and rollout.



# Freedom Crossing Academy

## March 2022



This information is being presented by Deputy Fornash at our Middle School Expectations Meetings.

### **Transportation Changes**

Please email transportation changes to [FCATransportationChanges@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:FCATransportationChanges@stjohns.k12.fl.us) Please be mindful that we receive numerous requests for transportation changes each day. If it is possible to maintain your traditional method for afterschool pick up this would be helpful.

### **On the Horizon**

Mar. 29 -Report cards issued  
Mar. 31 -School Advisory Committee Meeting @ 4PM  
Apr. 1 -  
Apr. 2- Metro Town in a Day  
Apr. 15-18 – No School, Easter Break  
Apr. 26 – 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Interims Issued  
Apr. 29 – Drama presentation of Peter Pan  
Apr. 28 – School Advisory Committee Meeting @ 4 pm

### **Upcoming April Assessments:**

April 4-5 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade FSA Writes  
April 5 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade FSA Writes  
April 7-8 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Reading  
April 20 -25 Middle School District Final Exams  
April 26 -27 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> iReady Math  
April 28 -29 KG-1<sup>st</sup> iReady Math

See our web page for more testing information:

<https://www-fca.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2022/03/FCA-Spring-21-22-Testing-Calendar-Overview.pdf>

### ***Take Flight and Break Barriers!***

*Respectfully,*

*Gina R. Fonseca*

*Principal*

*Freedom Crossing Academy*