

THE COMMENTATOR

Vol. LXIX, No. 1 Douglas Southall Freeman High School October 2021

Homecoming 2021



Homecoming poster in the main hallway.

Annabelle Glassman
Editor-in-Chief

On Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23, the Freeman community will come together for a weekend of football, dance festivities, and, a celebration of being back together again this year.

The Parade

Friday night's festivities will start with the usual parade from Tuckahoe Middle School, down Three Chopt Road. The theme for this year's parade is "Mavericks on the Move." This year, a number of clubs will be represented, along with the four class floats and representatives from some organizations riding in cars. "I'm pretty confident that this year's float design has never been attempted before," said senior class Historian Sydney Greiner. "I'm excited to see our plan come together for the parade and win first place for

"I'm pretty confident that this year's float design has never been attempted before,"
- Sydney Greiner

the senior class!" She described their idea as "unexpected but brilliant." The parade will culminate in the Freeman parking lot right before the football game begins.

The Game

The Mavericks will face off against the Tucker Tigers for the homecoming game. Tucker's varsity team has a 3-3 record, beating Caroline, Meadowbrook, and Deep Run, but losing to Hermitage, Thomas Jefferson, and Glen Allen. Freeman is comign off of a 28-20 loss to Hermitage, and is looking to bounce back on Friday. While traditionally on home-

coming night, Freeman is the only team with the home-field advantage, this year is different, as Tucker has been using Long Stadium as their home while the school undergoes renovations. The game will start at 7, and tickets will be on sale at lunch on Thursday and Friday, as well as at the game.

The Dance

This year, the Student Council Association (SCA) has chosen to host the dance outdoors in a tent in front of the Big Gym, instead of its usual location inside of the Big Gym. "I think it was honestly our only option to have a safe homecoming and still allow it to happen," said senior Britt Mauck, who is in charge of spirit week, music, and ticket sales for the SCA. "The only thing that will be indoors is a photo booth and the bathrooms," said Carter Reilly, a Freeman teacher and one of the SCA sponsors, "and we already have teachers monitoring how many kids are [inside] at a time."

Not only does the outdoor loca-

tion make the dance more pandemic-safe, but it also allows for some new additions. "Besides the weather being a possible problem and bringing challenges, I think it's going to be really neat. We've never had a Kona Ice truck before," said Mrs. Reilly. "We're going to have a photo booth, a DJ, a dance floor, and tables and chairs to sit in. It's just going to be in a new spot, but it should still be really fun."

"We've heard that other schools are not doing full-on dances like we are," said Mrs. Reilly. "They're doing a cookout before or like a tailgate before the game." However, Freeman made holding an actual dance a priority. "Our principal Mr. Marshall felt like we could be a school that branches out from everyone else. He thought that we could still have a homecoming and still be safe about it," said sophomore Mason Shepherd, a member of the SCA.

On the subject of masks, and whether or not they will be required at the dance, Mrs. Reilly said "We haven't determined

if it's a mask on or off yet, but I'm sure it's going to be highly encouraged to wear masks."

For some Freeman students, this will mean not being able to experience the homecoming dance with close friends or boyfriends and girlfriends. "I think it is weird that people from other schools can come to sporting events but can't go to homecoming," said sopho-

"Freeman made holding an actual dance a priority."
- Mrs. Reilly

more Lewis Beach, whose girlfriend goes to Godwin. "Because of this, I am not planning on going."

Tickets, which come in the form of unique QR codes sent via email, will be sold at lunches on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the week before homecoming. They will be \$10 and are only available to Freeman students.

Contact Tracing Helps Keep Students Safe



PHOTO: CLAIRE MORRIS

The new QR codes for contact tracing at lunch

Farah Abdullah
Staff Writer

Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) has implemented contact tracing measures to track COVID-19 and prevent further exposure. These measures monitor students' contact with one another at school by using digital travel and lunch seating logs, as well as assigned seating in classrooms.

Freeman's principal, John Marshall, said that "[for] any positive case ... there's a quarantine period, but there's also a quarantine period for those that [may have been] exposed." Mr. Marshall defines exposure as "being within three feet, for 15 total minutes." After the exposed individuals are identified, the student's parent/guardian receives a phone call consisting of similar questions to HCPS's COVID-19 Health Screening for Students and a return decision is made. Dr. Naeemah Rodriguez is the

assistant principal at Freeman, and one of her roles is crisis and safety management. "Every Friday, the county has COVID meetings," she said. "[They] give us the latest trends in regard to COVID-19 and where our school district sits in regard to how we're keeping this process going."

Although methods to control the spread of COVID-19 have taken place, Dr. Rodriguez has expressed her concern for how the situation will progress. "I do fear that the situation has a propensity to probably get a little bit out of control

"I want everybody to be safe. You need to be very mindful of who you're around without a mask."
-Dr. Rodriguez

within the next few months ... we can't help but be concerned, especially when hearing about school closings due to COVID,"

"I do fear that the situation has a propensity to probably get a little bit out of control"
- Dr. Rodriguez

she said. "I want everybody to be safe. You need to be very mindful of who you're around without a mask," said Dr. Rodriguez.

Deborah Granger, Freeman's school nurse, said "We are seeing so many students that come in that are sick," and with the school at full capacity, she requests "[that they] do their self checks in the morning." The self

check she refers to is HCPS's COVID-19 Health Screening Acknowledgement Form. Students agreed to complete the screening each day to maintain a safe learning environment. "[I]t's really hard," Mrs. Granger said, "but I think the students here are doing a great job. They're doing the best they can with what we have."

Other staff members have also noticed student effort to follow contact tracing guidelines. Caitlin Roberts, a Freeman social studies teacher, has noticed ample student cooperation with COVID-19 protocols, emphasizing that her students do not allow the new rules to interrupt their learning experience. "I don't think it's [contact tracing] necessarily affecting too much [of] how I function in my classroom with my students. I would say it's more or less about the same," she said. "I don't see it too much as an obstacle ... and again, if this is what we need to do to make sure that students are safe, then that's what we're going to do."

Principal Marshall suggested vaccination to "[help] reduce the number of students we have out," but only if students "feel comfortable and [are] in consultation with their doctor." Mr. Marshall also took a moment to express his gratitude to the Freeman student body, thanking them "for wearing masks [and] following protocols," and asking for their "patience as we try to figure this out together." In a school year that has allowed for an in-person return, Mr. Marshall noted that "education, during a pandemic is something we're all still learning."

"If this is what we need to do to make sure that students are safe, then that's what we're going to do."
- Caitlin Roberts

THE COMMENTATOR
online

Visit
dsfcommentator.org
to check out the
latest online articles!



Follow
[@DSF_Commentator](https://twitter.com/DSF_Commentator)
for news and
updates!



Freeman Gets a New Activities Director

Jack Kelleher
News Editor

The Freeman Mavericks have a new activities director. Following Mrs. Criswell's retirement from Freeman's Director of Student Activities last year, a replacement was needed, which came in the form of Ronald Harmon.

A 27-year US History teacher in Henrico County Public Schools, Mr. Harmon has considerable experience with the school system. In addition, he served as head coach for boys' basketball, golf, girls' tennis, and boys' volleyball, meaning he's worked with past Directors of Student Activities and already has some familiarity with the duties of his new position.

The responsibilities of the job are wide-ranging, but according to

his job description, Mr. Harmon is required to "oversee the development and printing of student handbooks, programs, and schedules relative to student activities in the school." This includes coordinating sports, clubs, and any other student activities which require the use of school grounds or are conducted through the school.

Moving forward as Director of Student Activities, Mr. Harmon has four main goals: "increase student participation in athletics, clubs, and organizations, reduce the number of students ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities due to academic performance, expand on the re-branding process by increasing community involvement, and form the DSF Athletics Captain's Council." He sees these goals as furthering his "most important job" as activities director, "serv[ing] our students,

teachers, and coaches while giving them the best opportunity for happiness, safety, and success."

Harmon also has other connections to Freeman. A Freeman Alum, he has plenty of experience with student activities. He has a vested interest in the success of the school and the students, as he and his family live in the Freeman community. One of his daughters is now a 10th grader here at Freeman. Mr. Harmon even said his family "live[s] close enough to hear the band from the football games." All of these extra connections to Freeman make his position the "[t]he chance of a lifetime."

"It's the chance of a lifetime."
- Ronald Harmon



PHOTO: CLAIRE MORRIS
Mr. Harmon smiles for the camera.

Freeman Affected by the HCPS Bus Driver Shortage

Ishita Bakshi
Staff Writer

Since the beginning of the 2021 school year, Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) has been faced with a bus driver shortage that affects the lives of students, teachers, and administration. This shortage has been a nationwide problem, causing over 80% of school districts to alter their transportation services, and 51% to categorize the situation as "severe".

Long-standing issues concerning the low pay of bus drivers, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, have made it difficult to recruit and retain drivers. In the midst of the pandemic, numerous part-time drivers have stepped away from their jobs due to health concerns or retirement. As a result, Curt Macysyn, executive director for the National School Transportation Association, said the United States is facing the largest national bus driver shortage in over a decade.

Within Henrico county, full-time drivers run morning and afternoon routes, totaling six hours each day. At the beginning of the school year, there were 85 full time driver positions that needed to be filled in order to sufficiently get students to and from school. Lenny Pritchard, the HCPS Chief of Operations, told "Henrico Citizen" that the Tuckahoe and Three Chopt districts specifically have experienced the longest delays in transportation within Henrico, due in part to the high population of the area.

In order to combat the shortage, the county has increased its minimum hourly pay for drivers from \$14.91 to \$17.50, and has offered \$1,000 to \$3,000 bonus incentives for new and current drivers. Additionally, the county is offering benefits including healthcare coverage, sick leave, and retirement packages.

At Freeman, the bus driver shortage has shifted the daily schedule of hundreds of students. Katie Striker, a history teacher at



PHOTO: CLAIRE MORRIS

Freeman who has been working bus duty this school year, said that "in the mornings, unfortunately a bulk of our buses are not coming in until nine o'clock." She continued to explain how this causes students to miss parts of their first period each day. "Many drivers are having to do multiple runs and are being asked to cover for routes that don't have a driver," she said.

Because of these transportation problems, students have consistently missed instructional time from their first period classes, or have had to stay at school as late as 6:30 in the evening. "It can be really stressful because we have to wait so long in the mornings

"I miss my whole first period"
- Juvana Beshai

that sometimes I miss my whole first period," said Juvana Beshai, a junior who takes the bus to and from school. Juvana also has a

long wait after school, lasting up to an hour and a half. "It takes up a lot of time and has affected me because I have a lot of homework and hard classes to keep up with," she said. "Now, I have to stay up late and [am not getting] enough sleep, which has been rough."

To accommodate for the scheduling issues, Freeman has altered the bell schedule. Starting on October 4th, Freeman Focus began taking place at the beginning of the day. This way, students are no longer missing instruction from their first period classes.

Despite these hardships, the Freeman faculty has worked together to lower its impact. "It really is 100% a team effort. We are all communicating constantly, and there are a lot of moving parts, and we typically are a really well oiled machine," said Lauren Lightfoot-Clare, a teacher who has been in charge of the bus board for six years now. "The drivers coming in at different times have put a kink in our machine, but we are still doing everything that we can and making sure all the kids get home."



PHOTO: CLAIRE MORRIS

The District Ticket

Republican

Governor:
Glen Youngkin

Lieutenant Governor:
Winsome Sears

Attorney General:
Jason Miyares

Democrat

Governor:
Terry McAuliffe

Lieutenant Governor: Hala Ayala

Attorney General:
Mark Herring

Woes of the Student Lot



Isabelle Hevron
Opinions Editor

are dropped off. The only potential problem with this idea is that all of these students would have to cross the road (we already know how this goes in the afternoon). In order to combat this, we could hire a crossing guard. I think this would solve a lot of our problems, actually. One person in charge of directing traffic might be the only way to create some sense of order. Now that we've got the car riders taken care of, let's move to the underclassmen who do drive to school. I'd like to start off by saying that letting them park in the upperclassman lot the first week of school was a huge mistake. There was simply no room for them- I didn't even get a spot one day and had to park on the side. I was extremely worried to check my windshield and for fear of seeing some sort of ticket or violation, but luckily I was spared by the man in the golf cart. The underclassmen who can drive need to park in the Church lot, which they already do, so that aspect of dismissal actually does work. Another solution that is much easier and already provided for us is the bus system. I'm not exactly sure what changed from 8th to 9th grade, but suddenly no one wants to ride the bus. I'd say arguably the biggest problem while trying to tackle the student lot problem is money. However, the county has already paid and supplied us with buses and drivers- we should use them. Imagine how much easier things would be if most of the car riders switched to riding the bus! There would be no traffic at all! So, to each of you reading this, go check what bus you can ride.

The student lot could definitely use some executive changes from the school itself, but a lot of it comes down to the drivers. If we could all be a little more patient and cooperative, and a little less aggressive, I think we could create a more orderly drop off system that works for everyone.



PHOTO: CLAIRE MORRIS
The student parking lot in the afternoon.

3:55 p.m. Simultaneously the best and worst time to be a Freeman student. After a long 7 hours of notes, quizzes, and scrambling to complete homework assignments, hearing Mr. Marshall conclude the afternoon with his iconic "and as always ... go Mavs" is music to my ears. Unfortunately, as everyone scrambles to race out of the parking lot, chaos ensues. The same time underclassmen sprint (without looking) across Camden Drive to their parents who are lined along the street, roughly 200 upperclassmen try to fight their way out of the lot. This means one of two things. One: you are either almost hit by a student driver, or two: you are the student driver who almost hits someone. While I am blessed enough to have early release this year, the mornings are still the same chaotic madness. I have to leave my house at 8:15 a.m., despite living no more than seven minutes away. Once I drive down Santa Anna Road, I am met with a mess of cars all trying to go different directions. When I finally get into the lot, the parents trying to drop their kids off create a standstill line inside the lot, which then blocks each row, and forces me to sit and wait for them to move. This is the most frustrating part to me. When I (occasionally) am running late to school, a row of Suburbans is always barricading access to the one spot left in the very last row, causing me to lose the precious minutes I need to sprint up to Mr. Pruet's room before the 9:00 a.m. bell rings. The takeaway here? We need a new system. First thing first: there needs to be a designated drop-off place for underclassmen. This is the toughest part to tackle. My first thought is that the Drivers Ed lot would be perfect. It provides a divide between the upperclassmen lot and where car riders

She Said



Isabelle Hevron
Opinions Editor

Take as many as possible.

I hate it when they try to remix songs

It makes it more fun and less stressful

Yes, it's a classic homecoming tradition

Big groups! More people=more fun

The afterparty!

Homecoming Edition!



Picture taking

The DJ

Planning

Fancy Dinner

Big or small group

Best part

She Said



Cindy Xie
Opinions Editor

One rule: If I don't look good, don't post it

A hit or miss. Play some good old 2010s hip hop

Y'all can figure it out, I'll just show up

Taco Bell for hoco dinner is ideal

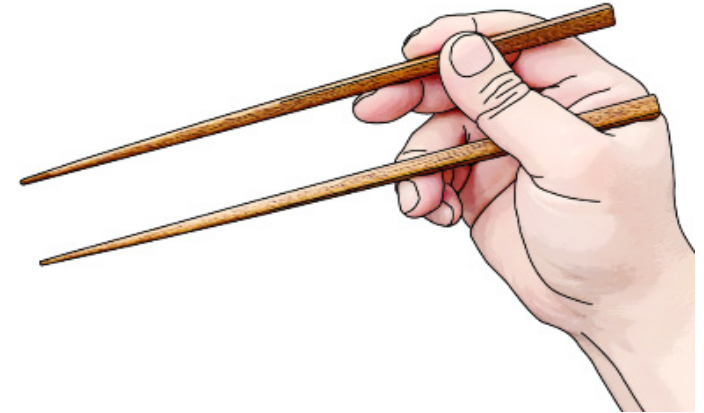
Small groups

Getting ready and feeling all pretty (or handsome)!

Why Chopsticks are the Best Utensil



Cindy Xie
Opinions Editor



A shiny, metal spear that magnificently utilizes its four tines to pierce through any obstacle it encounters - a fork. A spoon, on the other hand, with its carefully crafted curve, can cater to a variety of occasions; whether it's scooping cold ice cream or sipping warm chicken noodle soup. What about chopsticks? They're just a pair of wooden sticks. They might not sound impressive or even useful. Luckily, I'm here to explain why chopsticks are the superior utensil.

The simplicity in chopsticks is what makes them so versatile. Imagine the possibilities that arise out of those two wooden sticks, like a pair of best friends who can do anything they put their mind to. Obviously, chopsticks can be used to fulfill their most basic purpose: to assist with dining. An advantage to eating with chopsticks is that you have a lot more control over how much food you want to pick up. You can get the perfect amount of food in your mouth simply with a slight change in angle and hand placement. Forks can't say the same- they just pluck up some

food. No elegance or delicacy in them, just the violence of stabbing. Indeed, chopsticks promote peace; so try finding another utensil that can contribute to one of the UN's sustainable development goals!

I can't begin to number the times I have used chopsticks for random uses. Instead of risking electrocuting myself by getting my toast out with a fork, I can easily get the toast by sticking my wooden chopsticks in the toaster. Also, when I need to pull the tray out of the toaster oven, guess what I use? Yep! My handy dandy chopsticks! In all seriousness, chopsticks have saved me from burning myself many times. Frequently, I insert chopsticks into whatever food I'm making to see if it's ready or not. If the chopstick goes through smoothly, then the food is ready to eat. But if the chopstick's not budging, then my meal has to go back in the oven. All this goes to show that chopsticks are truly multi-purposeful in the kitchen, and they do their job better than forks, spoons, and even the funny-looking sporks.

Last but not least, chopsticks are the best utensil because of the amount of skill one must possess to effectively use them. Some might argue that because handling chopsticks is not easy and takes some

effort, it's a subpar utensil. Who would ever want to make things more difficult than it is? However, having the capability and dexterity to eat with chopsticks reveals the talent of their users! Forks and spoons have a handle and all you need to do is impale or hold it and scoop. With chopsticks, you need to master the grip, the stability, and the angle. Having that expertise makes using chopsticks all the more impressive. It's kind of like inflation (to put it in terms for the finance bros to understand) - the more money there is the less value it carries. Well, because not everyone can use chopsticks the way they can with forks or spoons, they are more worthy of our respect and honor. So, next time when you whip those chopsticks out at your local sushi restaurant, you can show off to your friends and make them jealous of your ability to eat with two wooden sticks.

Chopsticks are not commonly-used utensils, but that should be changed! They offer a convenience, merit, and universality that push them to number one at the top of the "best utensils" list. So try buying a pair of chopsticks someday. I'm sure you won't regret it! The chopstick experience is simply irreplicable.

Commentator Staff

Editors-in-Chief:

Kieran Wall
Annabelle Glassman

Copy Editors:

Ella Hurlbert
Maddie Cassidy

News:

Jack Kelleher
April Miller

Sports:

Emily Waters
Cameron Cavender
Sydney Tyler

Centerspread:

Brooke Ward
Riley Speidell

Community:

Katherine Hynes

Online Editors-in-Chief:

Grayson Horner
Jack Harenchar

Design Editors:

Kristina Kang
Russell Nystrom

Features:

Maddie Carpenter
Hank Thompson

Arts & Entertainment:

Taylor Widdifield
Daisy Fuller

Opinions:

Cindy Xie
Isabelle Hevron

Photographers:

Emma Ridolphi
Claire Morris

Staff Writers:

Farah Abdullah, Morgan Strudgeon, Ada Malpani, Jazmyne Howell, Catherine White, Abby Crowe, Adair Reid, Lily Bowman, Henry Haggard, Audrey Jones, Maggie Newton, Ishita Bakshi, Lillie Deaton Connor, Peter Kriebel

Staff Advisor:

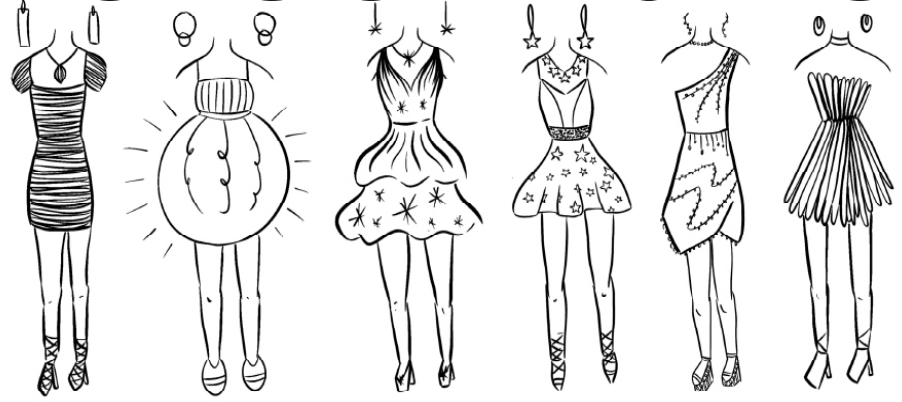
Jess Pruet

The Commentator is a publication of Douglas Southall Freeman High School

Principal: John P. Marshall
8701 Three Chopt Rd. Henrico, Virginia 23229
http://schools.henrico.k12.va.us/freeman/
Phone: (804) 673-3700
jbpruet@henrico.k12.va.us

Letters to the editor are encouraged. They must be signed before they can be printed. Because of variety and space, only a limited number of letters can be published. The Commentator reserves the right not to print a letter.

GLO-CO FASHION



CANDLE

LIGHTBULB

FIREWORK

STAR

FAIRY LIGHT

GLOWSTICK

DRAWING: ADA MALPANI

Freeman's New Schedule: Fix It!



Grayson Horner
Online Editor-in-Chief

After weeks of students arriving late to first period or missing it entirely, Freeman has decided to change the school schedule to accommodate students arriving on late buses. The problem is straightforward. Henrico doesn't have enough drivers. Bus drivers work early in the morning and late in the afternoon, making it nearly impossible to get another job. Unfortunately, Henrico will simply not pay bus drivers what is required to support themselves.

So, we are left in our current situation, where some students get to school nearly an hour after their first period starts, and it simply isn't fair that they have to miss class. Freeman has a solution: start school with Freeman Focus, and give students an additional 30 minutes to arrive until Henrico fixes the bus driver problem.

However, this new plan seems to be a meandering and strange solution to a problem that creates more problems than it solves.

High on the list of issues with this new schedule is its effects on lunch. Students who have D-Lunch will end up eating their lunch at 1:40 pm, a time that is frankly ridiculous. As someone who has either C lunch or D lunch, I cannot express how unenthusiastic I am about eating at 1:20 and 1:40 every afternoon.

Additionally, this plan requires students who arrive on time to sit and wait for thirty minutes at the beginning of the day, pondering why the school didn't just let them sleep in. Therein lies the solution; why doesn't the school just let students sleep thirty more minutes? Last year we cut an entire hour off the end of the school day. Why can't we start school 30 minutes later? It would allow buses adequate time to arrive at the school and give students more precious sleep.

In addition, we could keep Freeman Focus at its normal time of the day so that students aren't eating lunch at 2 p.m. Suppose we implemented this idea and took away reasonable amounts of time from all of the classes. In that case, we could cut the first period by five minutes, second, fourth, and sixth, by seven minutes each, and four minutes from Freeman Focus. At the end of the day, how much time would we really lose with this new schedule?

The answer is not much, and at the end of the day, if students are going to get to school early to put their heads down on their desks and wish they could sleep, why not just let them sleep?

DSF Regular Bell Schedule (Temporary)

Beginning 10/4/2021

PHOTO: AT DSF HUB

Time	Class / Period	Min
8:00 - 8:50	Early Bird Class	(50)
8:55 - 9:00	Warning Bell/Transition	(5)
9:00 - 9:30	FREEMAN FOCUS	(30)
9:35 - 10:25	Period 1 <i>* Tech Students will be released at 10:00 each day</i>	(50)
10:30 - 12:00	Period 2/3	(90)
12:05 - 2:08	Period 4/ 5 with LUNCH a. 12:00 - 12:29 (Lunch A) + 12:33 - 2:08 (Class) b. 12:05 - 12:33 (Class) + 12:33 - 1:02 (Lunch B) + 1:06 - 2:08 (Class) c. 12:00 - 1:06 (Class) + 1:06 - 1:35 (Lunch C) + 1:39 - 2:08 (Class) d. 12:05 - 1:39 (Class) + 1:39 - 2:08 (Lunch D)	{30/95} (28/28/62) (66/30/29) {94/30}
2:13 - 3:45	Period 6 / Period 7	(92)
3:45 - 3:55	Dismissal • Student Drivers (3:45) • Bus Riders (3:50 - 4pm as bus arrives) • Car Riders (3:55)	(10)

Fall/Winter Seasonal Flavor Ratings



The Case For One-Way Hallways in the Building



Kieran Wall
Editor-in-Chief

Imagine, just for a moment, a simpler time. Imagine a world where you never have to worry about being late for a class and caught by a tardy sweep. A world where you never have to worry about the door to the Small Gym you take as a shortcut being inexplicably locked. A world where you never have to nearly pile-drive freshman down the Green Acres stairs out of sheer frustration at their sluggish pace. Now what if I told you that this world could be a reality here at Freeman, that it has been a reality here at Freeman in the past, and all it would take is one simple change.

Those who attended school in-person last year know exactly what beautiful idea I'm talking about: one-directional hallways. The policy of one-directional (unidirectional) hallways at Freeman started when roughly half of the students first returned to school in March 2021. Originally instituted to prevent the spread of COVID-19,

the system required students to travel in a clockwise direction around the building during class transitions. Arrows on the floor ensured people knew what direction to go. Certain stairwells were designated for students going up, others for students going down. Now before I get shouted at by the whole student body, hear me out.

I'll admit, when I first heard about the new system last year, I was not thrilled. Staring at the board through the blurry plexiglass gave me a headache, lunch in the Small Gym looked like something out of a dystopian novel, and now I was going to have to walk all the way around the building to get to class? It just seemed like adding insult to injury. However, after about a week of walking my schedule, the hallway situation felt strangely normal.

Two weeks in, and things were beginning to feel almost better than normal. The hall traffic seemed to flow much more naturally than before, with no major slowdowns anywhere, even in problem areas like outside the Small Gym or the Green Acres corner. Sure, sometimes the clockwise travel would force me to take the long way to class, but more often than not, the time I saved from being able to walk without smacking into people heading the other direction was more than the extra time required. And the stairwells, oh, the stairwells were a heavenly sight. No more squeezing up the main-hall stairs competing

with lunch-goers coming down.

When I asked around about people's opinions on bringing back unidirectional hallways, the biggest concern was having to loop around the entire school to go to a class two or three down in the opposite direction. A valid complaint, but have no fear, all you need is a salmon pass! If a student ever needed to travel to a class a few doors opposite the direction of flow, all they needed to do was fill out a simple Google Form and contact their counselor to get a special pass. As an

added bonus, you got to carry around a pass shaped like everyone's favorite waterfall-hopping fish! Who wouldn't want that?

Like everything in the public school system, unidirectional hallways were by no means perfect. There's also the question as to whether they would even work with the building back up to 100% capacity. It's entirely possible that part of the reason the halls seemed less congested was because there were simply fewer students.

Look, I know we all want to put the pandemic behind us, and part

of that is throwing away the restrictions put in place last year like unidirectional hallways. Trust me, I've spent just as much time as you guys have nearly cutting my hands trying to pry the plexiglass mounts off the desks. So maybe we don't bring back one-way hallways in their entirety, maybe we just reintroduce the stairwell policies, or only implement it for certain parts of the school. But if we just blindly scrap everything about last year, we may be missing some genuinely good ideas on how to improve student life here at Freeman.



PHOTO: INKLINGS NEWS

An example of a one-way hallway in another school.

New Teacher Profile: Ms. Buchbinder

Hank Thompson
Features Editor

The Freeman Art Department welcomes a new photography teacher, a long-time professional photographer and first-time teacher Ms. Weston "Paige" Buchbinder. Ms. Buchbinder has been a photographer for over 25 years, but this is her first year teaching. "My favorite aspect of teaching is seeing the light bulb go off in the kid's eyes," she said. "When I'm talking with them, they ask me questions, and I explain it. It is that 'oh yeah' moment when you see them finally get it." Ms. Buchbinder has been working with cameras from a young age. "I always had a camera growing up," she said. "My dad would always take pictures [too]." Ms. Buchbinder went to college in West Virginia and worked for the Journalism department at the school. "I sat there all semester, doing nothing, until somebody finally came and asked me to process a roll of film," Ms. Buchbinder said. "From there, the heavens opened up and the light shined down ... it was just like: this is what I want to do for the rest of my life." Ms. Buchbinder then decided to transfer to Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Virginia, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Photography in 1995. Following her graduation, Ms. Buchbinder worked as a professional photographer and photographic and digital imaging specialist for the State of Virginia. "I was laid off in 2016 from my state job and considered going into teaching, but my business took off," she said. Once COVID-19 hit, she decided to go into "semi-retirement" and begin her teaching career. She applied to the Continuing Studies Program at University of Richmond to get her



PHOTO: ANNABELLE GLASSMAN
Ms. Buchbinder smiles behind desk.

masters and certificate to teach. Although she has been at Freeman for only a short time, Ms. Buchbinder already feels at home. "At Freeman, so far everybody's been very helpful, very friendly," she said. "Overall, it's very laid back, but I see that we still get things done ... It's kind of hard for me to say that because I am a Tiger grad. I will always be a Tiger at heart, but I'm happy to be part of the Freeman Family." During an average day in Ms. Buchbinder's class, students start with a daily photo; they answer certain questions about a given picture. "It's really interesting to see how they think and how they look at different images," she said. Her future goals in the classroom are largely influenced by her students. "I want to see where they want to go and what their vision is," Ms. Buchbinder said. "Even though photography seems like it's more art, but it's also

[partially] technology, so I need them to learn how to operate the digital cameras, photoshop, the darkroom, and stuff like that first." Like many classes, Photography was greatly affected by the virtual school year. "We're just kind of getting reacquainted with the cameras since they were virtual last year," she said. "A lot of [the students] really don't have any hands-on experience, so now they're just getting used to holding the camera and figuring it out." Despite the continued impacts of COVID-19 on her class, Ms. Buchbinder strongly encourages students to try an arts class in high school. "Even if you feel you don't have any creativity, there's always creativity in you. It can come out in art, it can come out in journalism, it can come out in video, in dancing, in sports or even in photography. You just have to give it a try."

DSF R.E.B. Award Finalists

The R.E.B. Awards for Teaching Excellence are awards that recognize exceptional public school teachers in Richmond. This year, Freeman had three finalists.



Mr. Peck

Classes he teaches this year: AP United States Government & Seminar in Ethics Philosophy and Law
Years he has been teaching: 29

Favorite thing about teaching: Watching students become excited about a topic they didn't know they could be excited about

Comment about his nomination: "It's an honor to be nominated, especially alongside such great teachers as Mr. Podolny and Mrs. Hunnicutt. But the reality is there are dozens of great teachers at Freeman who would be worthy REB recipients. I hope that students and parents will consider nominating one of their teachers next year."



Mrs. Hunnicutt

Classes she teaches this year: English 10 Honors and English 10 Honors in the Center
Years she has been teaching: 23

Favorite thing about teaching: The moment a writing concept clicks for a student or a discussion about literature is electric

Comment about her nomination: "I think it speaks volumes about the staff here at Freeman that we have three finalists among us. I am hopeful but realistic about my chances."



Mr. Podolny

Classes he teaches this year: All levels of math, from Algebra 1 to Calculus
Years he has been teaching: 11

Favorite thing about teaching: Seeing students discover that they can complete a task they once thought nearly impossible

Comment about his nomination: "It is difficult to be a good teacher without other supportive and knowledgeable teachers around you. Teachers and administrators at Freeman are always collaborating with each other and challenging each other to improve our craft. I am lucky to teach in a place with such amazing colleagues."

Freeman Introduces New African American History Class

Ada Malpani
Staff Writer

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in collaboration with teachers, professors, and experts, has sought to increase African American history representation in all Virginia public schools. Part of this is by including a new course on African American history. The main goal of the class is to "not just teach African American history, but to also celebrate and honor the agency, resilience, joy, celebrations, and collaborations of Black people in America," said Freeman's African American history teacher, Caitlin Roberts. The course curriculum was created through an initiative by Governor Ralph Northam in the summer of 2020 to examine and change the way African American history is taught. This initiative, called the African American History Education Commission, worked alongside the VDOE to hire teachers and partner with museums and college professors to create a comprehensive curriculum. The African American history class focuses on the specific history and hardships of African Americans. According to Taylor Snow, the Henrico County Social Studies Director, most history classes are broad survey classes that require teachers to "give you as much con-



PHOTO: CLAIRE MORRIS

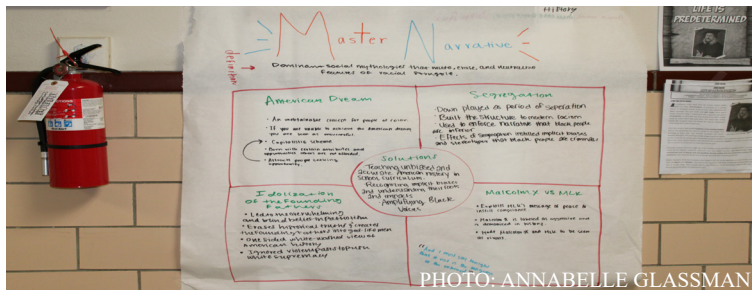


PHOTO: ANNABELLE GLASSMAN

Ms. Roberts is the teacher of the new African American history class. tent over as many different topics as quickly as we [teachers] can." The African American History Class gives students a more in-depth look at a particular part of American history, enhancing their understanding of the topic instead of glazing over it. The course also "challenges the predominantly white narrative we have, and continues to be present in Virginia history curriculum," said Ms. Roberts. This class attempts to move away from the narrative Ms. Roberts

mentioned. "I think at Freeman we call ourselves diverse, but we still have a lot of problems to work on," junior Rachel Stanton said. "However, people in the county, our admin, and everyone who's in the building see the problem and see what needs to be addressed and I think that this [class] was a valuable step to take." Furthermore, because the class was created so recently, it has several advantages over current history classes. For one, "other history class

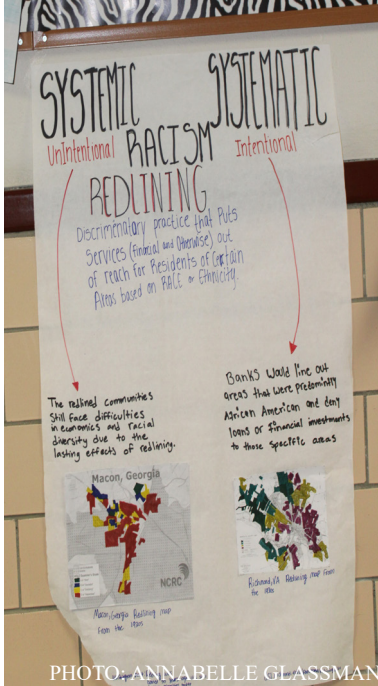



PHOTO: ANNABELLE GLASSMAN

frameworks were made, around 2015" said Social Studies Director Taylor Snow. "In contrast, the new African American history class prioritizes really effective educational practices, like investigating local issues and allowing students to pursue their own path in terms of research into issues." For example, each high school class is expected to pursue and investigate a local African American history topic for the class. Secondly, because the class has

no standard final exam, like an AP test or SOL, there is no requirement on what subjects need to be focused on. "We have a lot of freedom to organize things the way we want," said Mr. Larkins, the chair of Freeman's History department. "Students can look at the syllabus and tell the teacher what they are specifically interested in learning, and what topics they feel are the most important to cover." Another benefit of this class is diversity. African American history is offered to 10th, 11th, and 12th-grade students, and the course has a racially diverse group of students. This diversity creates interesting discussions where students can see other viewpoints. "A lot of my other classes were all predominantly white and, although it was not my choice, because of it I never got much interaction with my African American peers," said sophomore Hannah Tittermary. "Hearing their stories about what goes on in America today, or what went on with their parents or grandparents, is truly eye-opening." The class is also a way for African American students to connect with their past and learn more about their history. "Being black is a big part of my identity, and the identity of so many other students here," Rachel said. "This class creates a safe space for me to learn about myself, my family, and the people that came before me."



Send a message to a friend and brighten their day!



FREEMAN REAL TALK CLUB

<https://www.henricorealtalk.com/freeman-real-talk>

A Message From Marshall



PHOTO: EMMA RIDOLPHI

Principal John Marshall outside of Freeman

John Marshall
Principal

Dear Freeman Family,

Welcome to Homecoming weekend, the 65th DSF Homecoming festivities of our school's rich history. This one feels special. One aspect of the term "homecoming" has always struck me. In some ways, it implies that DSF is (or was) your "home" for a period of your life. In some ways, it was. Some of you spent more waking hours here than at your actual house. Some grew up on campus, first coming here as a small child and returning as a parent and grandparent. For a place that calls itself a family, language like "home" is not a stretch. Welcome home and enjoy the festivities.

For our current students, families and staff, the absence of festivities last year and the physical absence from this building—our figurative home—should allow us to enjoy the events of this weekend, the parade, the big game, the

grass to turf, the building has been renovated, the basketball court has been renamed, new murals have been painted on top of old ones, and the air conditioning has been—wait, bad example—our team name has been updated to reflect the forward-thinking, inclusive school that we are. Welcome home, Mavericks.

Homecoming is obviously a chance to look back, but it's also a chance to look forward for those current Mavs. Who will you be at your 10-year high school reunion? What will your family look like at your 30th? What will your legacy be at your 50th? You are starting down the path that will determine those things even now, and I encourage you to use this as a chance to reflect on that path in front of you. When you do begin that path after high school, please know that you are always welcome back home any time and we look forward to your visits each fall. Freeman Family is forever... Go Mavs!

John Marshall
Principal



Maverick cheerleaders ready to cheer on the football team to a win!

PHOTO: BILL MCCLURE



PHOTO: BILL MCCLURE

The Douglas S. Freeman football team on their media day.

Freeman's New Mav Man: Nate Elkin

Lillie Connor
Staff Writer

At football games, under the blinding Friday night lights, a senior stands holding a whiteboard covered in chants for the student section to follow. This is our Maverick Man (Mav Man for short), Nate Elkin. Tasked with keeping crowd morale high, Nate [goes] to the football games with whiteboards and markers and help[s] make sure ... everyone is involved" in cheering on the Mavericks. Nate also helps the underclassmen learn new cheers, so being energetic is an important aspect of his job.

Cheer captains, seniors Isabella Cavallo, Kelly Mollenauer, and Riley Speidell, work with Nate to coordinate with the student section during cheers. "Sometimes when we're doing a certain cheer, we will tell [Nate] to write it on the board so the student section can say it along with us," said Isabella. Freshman Sophia

Shaw has greatly enjoyed her first season in the stands. "[Nate] contributes a lot to the school spirit," said Sophia. "I think it's important to have a leader to guide us throughout the cheers."

Junior Class President Grayson Archibeque believes it is incredibly important to have a student figure leading the student section on game days. "I think he serves as a person to make sure everybody's excited, and get everybody pumped up for the week and the football or basketball game," said Grayson.

Nate Elkin has always loved going to football games and is excited to help lead the student section. "My favorite part of being the Mav Man is always going to the football games," said Nate. "My favorite memory has to be the last two minutes of the Prince George game because it was such a close game and nail-biter."

Nate's responsibilities as the Mav Man go beyond just teaching cheers. Grayson Archibeque referred to Nate as "the main senior

and engage the players. "I think it definitely helps [the team]. All the players I know on the team have called me and have said ... it helped to have our support behind them and [have] the crowd cheering [them] on," said Elkin. "It shows them that we [are] watching and supporting them."

Isabella Cavallo thinks, when it's nearing the end of a close game, Nate and the student section are there to encourage the team and show their support. "I think Nate and the senior class help the players excited... especially towards the end when it's a close game," said Isabella.

Nate's passion for school spirit shows when the decibel level intensifies to deafening and every student in the stands is on their feet.

On Mondays, Nate works with Class Presidents, Riley Speidell and Grayson Archibeque, to discuss the theme of an upcoming game. Twitter notifications appear on Wednesdays from the Freeman Students' Twitter account, run by Nate with the help of Grayson and Riley, announcing the theme for that week's game.

The Mav Man also works to encourage

as "the main senior

"I have never seen someone in a role like that before."

- Tim Sanders



Mav Man Nate Elkin (pictured left) with Corey Gutenberger (pictured right).

PHOTO: RILEY SPEIDELL

DSF HOMECOMING 2021 ROYALTY



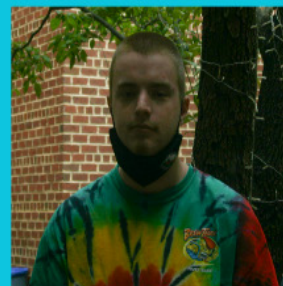
Kayley Wine



Davis Cauble



AnnDouglas Rabon



Liam Mayers



Isabella Cavallo



Gio Mazzeo



Owen Fallen



Bridget Amrhein



Ben Mai



AK Canavos

WHAT FREEMAN SPIRIT DAY ARE YOU?

1. What is your favorite sport?
 - a. Football
 - b. Basketball
 - c. Baseball
 - d. Lacrosse
2. What is your favorite holiday?
 - a. The 4th of July
 - b. Halloween
 - c. Winter break
 - d. Valentine's Day
3. What is your favorite activity?
 - a. Performing community service
 - b. Reading books and magazines
 - c. Playing sports/Going outside
 - d. Spectating DSF football games
5. What would you choose to wear?
 - a. Jeans
 - b. Togas
 - c. Boots
 - d. The color navy

If you chose mostly:

A- American, B- Greek, C- Western, D- School Spirit



DSF student section in the first home game of the season.

PHOTO: RILEY SPEIDELL

Freeman's Got Talent: Tee Garner

"Freeman's Got Talent" is a new column featuring a DSF student who displays a particular talent. This issue's column focuses on Tee Garner who is a sophomore on the DSF golf team.

How long have you been playing golf?

"I started playing golf when I was 5, but I didn't start playing competitive golf until a few years ago."

What got you into golf?

"My dad would take me to the golf course with him when I was younger, which sparked an interest I've always had."

What is your favorite thing about the golf team?

"I really enjoy the competition and getting better, but I also really like being out there playing with my friends."

What is it like being one of the younger guys on the team?

"I have enjoyed the older guys picking on me at practice."

What golf achievement have you been most proud of?

"I was proud to be apart of the team when we scored 7 under par against Godwin. Its always nice to beat your rival."

What do you enjoy most about Freeman?

"Freeman is all around a great school. It has great people, teachers, and sports teams."

What is your favorite class this year?

"I really like AP Human Geography. Mr. Williamson always makes us laugh and he is my favorite teacher."

What do you like to do outside of school?

"I love to play golf and hangout with my friends outside of school."

What are you looking forward to most this year?

"I am mostly looking forward to getting better academically, having a winning basketball team, and having a good time this year overall."



PHOTO: BILL MCCLURE

Tee Garner at state golf tournament in Williamsburg, Va

Foreign Exchange Student

Morgan Strudgeon
Staff Writer

This year, two Freeman Families are hosting foreign exchange students. The Strauchler family is hosting Paz Garces Haro from Spain and the Pustilnik family is hosting Mika Krpelj from Germany. Despite COVID-19 and many restrictive travel policies, Paz and Mika were determined to come to Richmond for the 2021-2022 school year.

Foreign exchange students all have different motives for studying abroad. For Paz, it was her desire to "improve [her] English, to have the American experience, and to be more independent without [her] parents" that motivated her to study in America. She chose to come to Richmond because her father stayed with Mrs. Strauchler in a similar program when he was 16. Senior Lucy Strauchler said, "We have known Paz's family for a very long time and kept in touch with them for a while."

Paz and Lucy both said that although they have met before, they have gotten even closer. "It's crazy to see how your relationship grows with somebody," Lucy said. "We know her but we've really only seen her for a couple of days at a time on vacations ... seeing how our relationship has changed with her while she's been living with us has definitely surprised me. I didn't realize how close we were going to get so quickly."

However, moving to a different country for an entire school year is a big adjustment. "The school system [is] so different," said Paz. "In Spain, we only have one class so we are always with the same people in the class and the teachers come to our class.



PHOTO: PUSTILNIK FAMILY

Pustilnik family welcoming Mika to the U.S.

But with this system, I'm meeting more people." Regardless of the adjustments, Paz still said that her participation in the program thus far has been "an even better experience than I imagined."

Another Freeman Family, the Pustilniks, decided to be a host family for Mika Krpelj, a foreign exchange student from Germany, for the 2021-2022 school year. While the Pustilnik's children attend Freeman, Mika is enrolled in a program through Hanover County Public Schools and is currently attending Patrick Henry High School.

"We were just sitting in our yard with my mom and [my family], and they [asked] how [we] would feel about hosting a foreign exchange student," said Olivia Pustilnik. "We all kind of flipped. We were so excited about it." Olivia said that "this was ... a one in a million opportunity," and that their whole family was really excited to host Mika.

Thus far, their experience has been entirely unique, as Olivia Pustilnik put it, "It was [interesting] to hear him come to America and talk about how completely different it is from Germany. It is very

strange because ... their school goes to 13th grade." They also said that their whole family has learned a lot about German politics and culture. Since arriving in Virginia, Mika has started playing soccer for a small travel team. According to his host family, "he is very competitive, and he's just a fun person to be around." Mika is also looking forward to playing on Patrick Henry's soccer team in the spring.

A foreign exchange program is an unforgettable experience. Freeman's very own Ms. Gatewood, a member of the English department, lived in Plymouth, England during her junior year of college. She says that her favorite part of the experience was the friends that she made along the way. "I actually still talk to some of my housemates that I lived with when I was living in England," she said. "[I] actually invited one of them to my wedding." Ms. Gatewood thinks that "everybody should [do a foreign exchange program] ... I think it's important to go to other places besides being at home all the time because learning from other cultures and other nationalities is so important for us as humans."

Two Mavericks Represent Freeman at FBLA Nationals

Catherine White
Staff Writer

Over the summer, Freeman juniors Ella Rackliffe and Siyona Singh kept themselves busy by representing Freeman's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club at a national competition. Ella and Siyona have both been active members of the FBLA since their freshman year. The Freeman FBLA club has only just recently started competing but they have already found success. The club's staff sponsor, Richard Orr, said "In the two years I've been here, we are 11 for 11. We have never lost anything that we've entered."

An FBLA competition consists of all competitors taking a timed, 100 question test. The students are then scored and placed based on their test scores. The students must take a separate test for each level of competition. Siyona described the testing process as "a little bit intense, but a cool learning experience."

The FBLA club had seven students compete in regionals this past February. "The only time that somebody from Freeman came in second was when there was somebody else from Freeman who won it!" said Mr. Orr. Because of their success at the regional level, all seven Freeman representatives were able to advance to states. At states, two Mavericks established themselves as experts in their fields: Ella and Siyona.

Ella chose to take her background knowledge from the Introduction to Business and Marketing class she took her freshman year to compete in the Introduc-

tion to Business event at FBLA competitions. Ella had come in fourth at the state competitions in April to qualify for nationals. She then devoted herself to her studies and placed fourth in the nation in June. According to Ella, "the competition experience was pretty straightforward." Ella said that she "prepared by just doing practice questions" and "looking through the textbook that [she] used for class." Her passion for business goes beyond the FBLA club. "I want to go get a business degree. I really like finance," said Ella. "I guess my number one goal would be working on Wall Street, like the stock exchange."

Competing alongside Ella at nationals was fellow Freeman student, Siyona. Siyona entered in the Organizational Leadership category in competitions. She describes this as "a combination of psychology and business leadership." Siyona said, "You don't really learn that in school so it's kind of a lot of studying you have to do on your own." At the state level, Siyona took home a win for organizational leadership, which earned her a spot at the national competition. She described nationals as "super fun and a really cool experience to kind of go through the process and compete against so many different people."

"From what I've seen, Siyona is super hard-working, and once she has a goal in mind she is determined to reach it," said junior Claire Thomas, a fellow FBLA club member. Both Ella and Siyona studied their materials for months between the regional, state, and national competitions. This preparation looked different than normal

due to the conditions they were in.

The pandemic altered the way these girls competed. "It was just so different," said Siyona. "I'm competing at Nationals, but I'm sitting in my room taking the test." The competition was originally supposed to take place in Illinois before it was switched to an entirely virtual format. "We ended up just taking tests locally, and then got to see the result nationally," said Mr. Orr. Even though they were not able to travel, the girls both agreed that the virtual format had some positives. "I was able to have more flexibility and time outside of school to prepare for the competitions," said Siyona.

Ella felt similarly and said, "I do think I definitely had an easier time than I would have if it was a normal year."

Ella and Siyona certainly did not lack Freeman pride. "It's cool to think 'I'm from Freeman High School at this level!'" said Siyona.

"I feel like it's just starting to pick up the pace here at Freeman," said Ella, referring to the growing club.

Mr. Orr felt that the girl's suc-

"I feel like it's just starting to pick up the pace here at Freeman"

- Ella Rackliffe

cess was reflective of the learning environment at Freeman. He said that "the education that students are getting at Freeman is top-notch," and consequently the FBLA club is "able to see some of the proof by virtue of the way we're doing in the competitions."



PHOTO: CATHERINE WHITE

Siyona Singh



PHOTO: ELLA RACKLIFFE

Ella's fourth place award



PHOTO: CATHERINE WHITE

Ella Rackliffe

The Return of Freeman Football

Lily Bowman
Staff Writer

It's a cool fall Friday night back in William E. Long stadium where Freeman football welcomes the return of screaming fans. The players run wildly down the field, the smell of popcorn and donuts fills the air, and the student section loudly sings "Sweet Caroline." Though new challenges and anticipations will arise, the team is ecstatic to be back with their sports family.

When asked about challenges presented by the long-awaited season, Coach George Bland said, "I think it's been the opposite of challenging. Everybody was so hungry to get back to a more normal experience." He also that, "[the team] had the best weight room attendance [they've ever] had" because of the "level of the excitement [from the] fact that they were denied from having that experience for so long." He mentioned that the team could focus on practice more without lots of COVID restrictions, which Wells Nunnally, a 9th grader on JV, agreed with. "It's easier [now] because last year they had to do contract tracing during every practice...



PHOTO: BILL MCLURE

The football team runs onto the field before their game

which affected [us] a lot, but now it's just normal," said Wells. The team, both JV and Varsity, have appreciated being able to be more flexible with mask-wearing and social distancing specifically because it has helped them get to know each other better and created a stronger team bond.

As the team transitions back into their Friday night games, Coach Sean Cook noted how the energy of the fans has affected team performance. "Last year

having limited fans [made for] a practice-type atmosphere... now, having the stands full and the band back creates the Friday night environment that we're used to," said Cook. "It's bringing back that excitement for both the players and community." Though parents of players were allowed to attend the games last year, Coach Cook explained that the student section brings higher energy on Friday Nights which really gets the team hyped up.

Max Vest, a sophomore and first-year varsity player said, "The entire school really came together for the game, and it was a big shock. [It's] like a family... having everyone behind us: all the fans and supporters." Many players have mentioned how thankful they are for the extra push during the games, especially when they start to get tired at the end of the game. According to Ty Bowman, a junior on varsity, the "student section [has] been re-

ally strong this year for sure."

Davis Sharp, a sophomore on JV, said, "My favorite part is the people. Getting to talk to everyone and interact with [them] on the field, really makes a difference." Though he has been injured this season, Davis said he "[loves] being able to bond with other injured players" as they continue to support their teammates. Since all of the players are having these shared experiences once again, a football "brotherhood" has been established. "This year, it feels more like we're one big family instead of individual grade levels," said Ty Bowman. The band has also expressed excitement at finally being able to perform their half-time show. Drum major Jack Harper said, "It feels really good to be performing again... [Since] we didn't have a real season last year, being back in the stadium and having that old feeling of adrenaline has been great." He emphasized that everyone has been super excited, both band members and students alike, to finally have the third quarter band once again. "Performing the show is just one part," said Jack. "Playing in the stands and in front of the student section is just as fun. It really brings the energy to the games and gets everyone hyped."

Freeman XC Picks up the Pace

Adair Reid
Staff Writer

Freeman's cross country (XC) team returned to competition on September 18th after a rigorous preseason. In their first meet, the Fork Union Military Academy Invitational at Pole Green Park, the cross-country Mavericks proved that their six-week preseason was put to good use.

Last year, the team faced a shortened preseason period that left many struggling during long-distance races. "If they didn't come into the season in pretty good shape, there really wasn't time to get them into shape," said Head Coach Brian Reutinger. "I mean, it's such a process to be able to run 5000 meters at an upper level."

Beginning in August, training is a crucial part of the preparation for the next three months of the regular season, consisting of invitationals, meets, and the regional and state events set for the November postseason. Daily practices on the track, in neigh-

borhoods surrounding Freeman, and in the weight room focus on building strength and endurance back up so that the runners can compete in high-level 5K events. Taking advantage of practice time has been paramount for Freeman, in hopes, it will translate to end-of-season success.

Training beyond running is an essential component for suc-

"Our team is full of athletes that are built to do much more than plant one foot in front of the other."

- Walker Beck

cess in cross country, as becoming well-rounded athletes is one of the most important objectives for Freeman XC. "Our team is full of athletes that are built to do much more than plant one foot in front of the other," said senior Walker Beck. "Our raw athleticism helps us

at the end of races when our legs start to give out."

In addition to the time spent training, the Freeman XC team used the summer preseason to bond. Team pasta dinners, social media accounts, and shared rituals like running to Cheswick Park the day before meets help to develop the connection between team members throughout the season. Preparing for meets together is another important aspect of the team's bond. "The biggest thing that we do is after our dynamic warm-ups before we get going, we all get in a circle and hype each other [up]," said junior Morgan Stoudt. "We say a little cheer [together]."

An overarching theme of Freeman XC is unity and the ability to push each other, driven by the experience and leadership of 11 seniors. "We've got a really good group of seniors," Coach Reutinger said. "They contribute to a culture that's conducive to get better and be faster." A notable aspect of this year's team is depth; a solid senior class and upcoming underclassmen contribute to the team's promising odds. "I think that we're the most like a family," junior Morgan Stoudt said. "As a team, we always support each other. We're just always there for each other."

However, when it comes to races, Freeman's top priority is the course in front of them. "We lock in on the goal and avoid as many distractions as possible," said Walker.

After a full preseason, all four of Freeman's varsity XC teams placed within the top five at this season's opening meet at Fork Union Military Academy. All teams competed in the same event: the 5K. The two varsity boys' teams finished fourth and third overall in the race with average times of 17:46 and 19:56 minutes. The varsity girls' teams finished fifth and third with average times of 21:29 and 24:25 minutes.

But Freeman XC aims higher this year; a shared

"We're trying to make it to states."

- Lauren Winterhoff

goal is to finish at the top in the Regional and State meets. "[The point of] any season is to get ready for the postseason... that's definitely something we've got circled on the calendar. It's the preparation, the process of getting them ready for that," said Coach Reutinger. "We're trying to make it to states [as a goal]," said freshman Lauren Winterhoff.

The Mavericks will compete in Regionals on November 3rd at Pole Green Park and States on November 13th at Great Meadow. For those interested in following the team's progress this season, check out their Instagram (dsf.xcf) and Tiktok (freemanrunnerz).

2020 State Champions



Way to make DSF proud!

Congrats Ladies,



PHOTO: MORGAN STOUTD

Runners compete at the Fork Union invitational.

Girl's Tennis: Cindy Xie, Isabelle Hevron, Grace Johnson, Caroline Frank, Ellie Wood, Anne Douglas Council, Dabney Ransone, Olivia Bargatze, Caroline Verdery, Virginia Garner, Haiden Curtis, Willa Quinn, Katherine Pollard, Elise Simonton, Merrick Mock, Sydney Greiner, Carol Ann Moore, and Anne Riley Pounders

Girl's Lacrosse: Emma Jacoby, Claire DeSouza, Abbey Bruce, Britt Mauck, Quinn Patton, Lucy Larkin, Evie Gouldin, Bridget Amrhein, Naska Barlow, Meg Pollard, Rachel Gordon, Kerry Nease, Bridget Wilson, Meredith Paul, Ella Davis, Grace Moore, Margaux Schimick, Claire Foley, Emmie Davis, and Audrey Jones

Freeman Dance Team Gains New Status

Peter Kriebel
Staff Writer

For long-time and prospective dancers at Freeman, a welcome development is underway- the dance club has finally been made a sport. In 2019, the club's 16 members took to the floor during pep rallies and basketball games to perform their prepared routines. But, beyond such events, the opportunities for the club to perform were few and far between. The transition to a sport means that this year, barring COVID-19 developments, the team will be able to attend competitions against other schools and receive support from the Booster Club. The sports designation "just makes us more official," said Coach Eileen Smith. The ability to compete is compelling for members of the team such as senior Lucy Strauchler, one of the founding members of the club. "Coach [Smith] and I are super excited," she said. "We're ready to start the season and we can't wait to see what the season holds for us." Another advantageous aspect of the team's new status is increased gym time. Here at Freeman, teams have priority over clubs when it comes to reserving gym space. The reality of clubs being placed on the back burner to sports is something that Lucy is all too familiar with. The dance club

"wasn't given priority on availability of the gyms," said Lucy. Having a consistent time and location for the practices could plausibly make the schedule easier to manage and, in turn, lead to a better product on the dance floor.

For those who don't think dance classifies as a sport, it may come as a surprise to learn a lot of the hard work and preparation go into a performance. "Lily and I choreograph all of our own dances," said Lucy. Once the dance is choreographed, it is taught during their sixty to ninety-minute practices before school.

The competitive atmosphere around the team leads the dancers to "put a little extra added element of pressure on the team, which will just make us improve that much more," said Coach Smith. Each dancer had to attend an audition to be part of the team; when the organization was a club, anyone could join.

The dancers have been trying for some time to be recognized as a team. One might assume this to be a simple process, but the club had already seen its fair share of trouble after COVID-19 derailed its first season. This didn't stop them, as they continued to fight to become a team. They got in contact with the athletic director and hammered out the details of the process. "I was informed by the former AD [athletic director] that we needed a certain amount of club members and had to meet a certain amount



PHOTO: CLAIRE MORRIS

The Freeman Dance Team.

FREEMAN FALL SPORTS CAPTAINS

<p>FOOTBALL Record: 5-1</p>	 Owen Fallen	 Bradley Perkins			
<p>FIELD HOCKEY Record: 3-7</p>	 Elie O'Neil	 Britt Mauck	 Emma Jacoby	 Virginia Garner	
<p>BOYS VOLLEYBALL Record: 7-5</p>	 Jacob Buxbaum	 Henry Mumford	 Brayden Owens	 Jace Nguyen	 Ben Coker
<p>GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Record: 7-3</p>	 Claire Greene	 Meredith Murphy	 Caroline McDevitt		
<p>GOLF</p>	 Luke Bitsko	 Grant Miller			
<p>COMP. CHEER</p>	 Riley Speidell	 Isabella Cavallo	 Kelly Mollenauer		
<p>CROSS COUNTRY</p>	 Madelyn Miller	 Brett Bishop			

PHOTO: CLAIRE MORRIS AND YEARBOOK STAFF

of times for a particular length of time in order to be considered a club, among some other requirements," Coach Smith said. "These are the things we accomplished during the 2019 to 2020 school year. Of course, the pandemic happened, which delayed us in the process. I was able to complete my vetting in order to be an official coach of the team during our time away. We're also now picking up where we left off and will

have to meet some requirements to remain an official team, such as competing in a competition." Dance has a lot to offer the students of Freeman. It's a source of exercise before starting the day. But for co-captain Lucy Strauchler it's more than that. "I think it is a good opportunity to find a new group of people who share a common interest," said Lucy. "And it's good to get involved in dancing in gen-

eral. Everybody gets really close when dancing together because you're working together so often on something that's important."

“Everybody gets really close when dancing together.”
 - Lucy Strauchler

Freeman's Cheerleading Sisters Tumble Towards Success

Abby Crowe
Staff Writer

Sophomore Ava Hare has followed in her sister's, senior Charlotte Hare, footsteps on Freeman's varsity sideline and competition cheer teams. The girls have always been close, but practicing and competing together has only strengthened their bond. They are no longer just sisters, but best friends and teammates too. Being protective was never as big of a part of Charlotte's relationship with Ava until recently. "In stunting, I sometimes step away because she's a flier ... and seeing her up in the air can be really scary," said Charlotte, a base. "Sometimes it's better for me to be like, 'Okay, we are stunting, you do your thing and I'll do mine.'"

While the girls have different roles on the team, that doesn't stop them from working together in and out of practice. "During the pandemic, they both participated in virtual workouts," said Keith Hare, the sister's dad. "I suspect that they either consciously or subconsciously motivated each other during that time."

Both Charlotte and Ava described the importance of helping each other learn dances, stunts, and cheers. Emily Walthall, head cheer coach, said the girls are, "quiet supporters of each other". Charlotte and Ava's loving relationship extends past just them:

"We're really comfortable around each other and everyone is there to support one another and make each other better," said Ava.

In the past, JV and varsity cheer teams have not always been connected but in recent years the two teams intermingle and practice together. "They will [now] learn the right technique instead of just being new people being shoved together," said Charlotte, describing the importance of having merged practices.

"Sometimes you just have to sit down and communicate with each other and figure out what's going on," said Ava. She explained how having a closely bonded team helps communication between teammates which leads to success on and off the mat.

Coach Emily Walthall said, "We are definitely a team sport, and you have to be able to work with anybody on the mat."

Kelly Mollenauer, one of the Cheerleading captains, reiterated this point and said, "Beyond skills, Charlotte brings a really positive attitude and Ava helps motivate everyone on the team."

Cheer has taught the girls lessons that they can apply not only to cheer but also to school and other aspects of life. "I've learned not to be discouraged; you're not going to get everything right the first time," said Charlotte. Similarly, she added, "I am not going to understand everything I learn in school immediately,

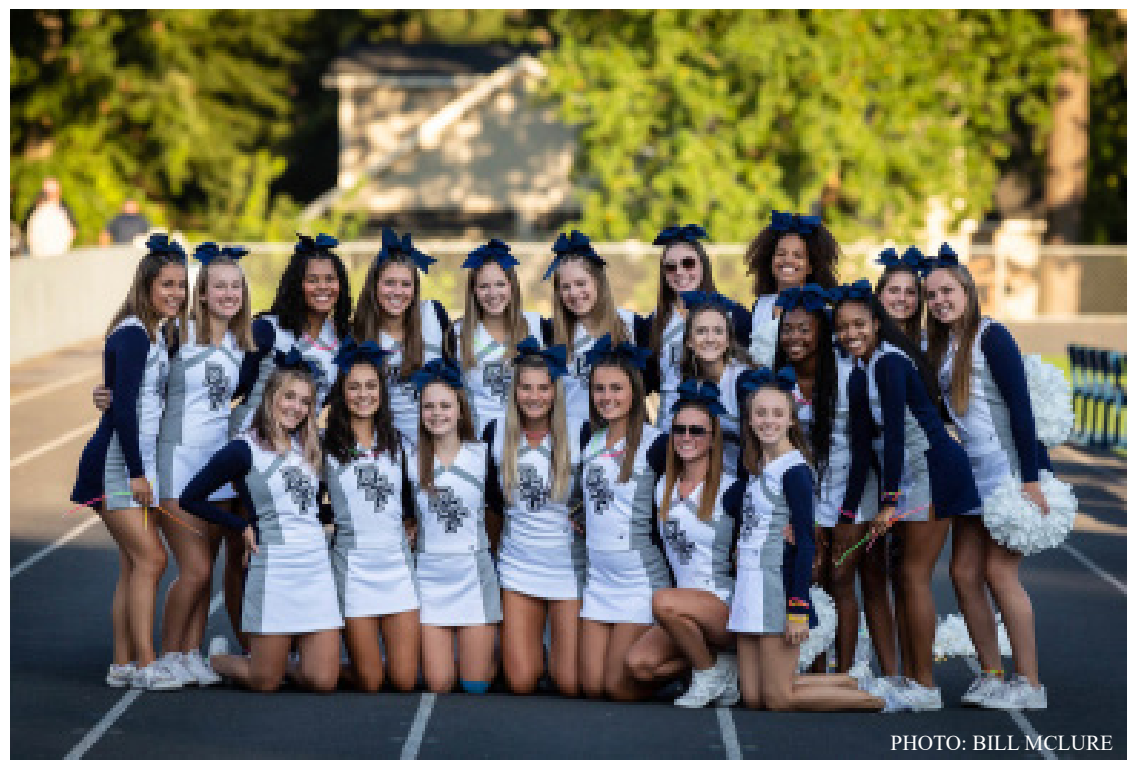


PHOTO: BILL MCLURE

Cheer team on the sidelines.



PHOTO: CHARLOTTE HARE

The Hare sisters at the beach.

but I just have to be patient."

The two most rewarding parts of cheer for both girls are hitting, which is executing a routine with zero deductions, and, "getting to show what we've done and seeing people get excited," said Charlotte. "I hope they take away good friendships and a sense of accomplishment," said Coach Walthall

“Charlotte brings a really positive attitude and Ava helps motivate everyone on the team.”
 - Kelly Mollenauer

as she reflected on the biggest lessons she hopes to instill in her girls. "We love to win but at the end of the day I want them to walk away with those life skills."

The power of a strong relationship has bonded Charlotte and Ava not only with each other but with the rest of the team. Ava said, "We're all super close and practice is just a positive place to be."



PHOTO: CHARLOTTE HARE

The Hare sisters.

Marching Mavericks's Fine-Tuned Return to 2021 Season

Audrey Jones
Staff Writer

After an almost two-year break, the Marching Mavericks are fine-tuning for their return to the 2021 band season. The band is showing off their new songs and half-time performance at Friday night football games and state-wide marching band competitions throughout the fall.

Titled "Redemption", the new performance can be described as "the journey from Hell to Heaven," said junior Julia School, a drum major in the band. It begins with the Navy Hymn called "Eternal Father," then moves into "Dies Irae" from the "Requiem" by Mozart, followed by a percussion feature, then a piece by Beethoven titled "Sonata Patha," and finally, the performance ends with the classic "In Your Eyes" by Peter Gabriel.

Senior Jack Harper, a drum major, described "Redemption" as "a groovy show," and freshman Nayeli Trinidad said, "it's really fun and upbeat but also classy."

While "Redemption" can be seen during half-time at Freeman's home football games, or even before an away football game, it is also the performance that the Marching Mavericks take with

them on the road to proudly show off at competitions. The Mavericks are "staying local this year," said Freeman's Band Director Rob Blankenship, with four competitions at high schools in Henrico and Powhatan County on the schedule.

Lots of hard work goes into perfecting the performance. "Three mornings a week before school, we are just practicing, adding visual effects and different things like that, and just fine-tuning everything we learned in camp to make it a show," said Mr. Blankenship.

"Preparing for competition is what we do the entire fall," said Jack. "It is what we work towards."

"Preparing for competition is what we do the entire fall."

- Jack Harper

From the outside, learning the performance may appear to be an almost impossible feat. It takes many hours to learn and perfect the show, but, "it's not that difficult. You just have to want to be able to do it," said Nayeli. "You're still going to have some slip-ups here and there, but when you put your mind to it you can

get the hang of it really easily."

New setbacks from COVID-19 safety protocols have provided a unique challenge for the band. "The players have to have masks on when we're playing inside. They pull them down to play and put them back up after which is kind of a pain," said Mr. Blankenship. "While I'm directing, I need to communicate with them. Not just with my hands, but with my face too, which is hard to do when part of it is covered." However, in comparison with last year, the Mavericks have more freedom to practice like normal this year. "Things are definitely a bit more relaxed. We don't have to cover the ends of the instruments with doll covers, and the warmer weather has allowed us to go outside where we can practice closer together," said Mr. Blankenship.

Even under the new circumstances, the band is "around where they would have been two years ago," said Jack. The Marching Mavericks have overcome the obstacles in their path to a successful 2021 band season.

Overall, the Marching Mavericks "are doing great," said Mr. Blankenship. "They're happy to be back, they want to do well, and they want to work hard. It's great to see."



PHOTO: EMMA RIDOLPHI

Marching band practicing on the field.

CLB VS. DONDA

Brooke Ward
Centerspread Editor

Kanye West, also known as Yeezy, and his rival Drake, both released highly-anticipated albums just five days apart; inevitably setting the albums against one another. Kanye West and Drake's longstanding rivalry began with the infamous "Lift Yourself," a song, if it can even be called music, that repeats the lyrics "poopy di scoop di whoop whoop di scoop di poop." The song was written because of Drake's frustration with West after Drake released the news that West had, allegedly, stolen the beat of the song. Naturally, West then leaked the beat just before Drake's "Scorpion" album was to be released.

Now, three years later, Kanye West and Drake are butting heads again. When Drake released "Certified Lover Boy," less than a week after West had released "Donda," the albums were inevitably going to be compared; beginning the debate: "which album is better?"

A poll of the Freeman student body revealed an interesting consensus: 55% of students thought "Donda" was better, while 45% preferred "Certified Lover Boy." However, an Instagram poll of Freeman students concluded in 52% believing CLB to be better and 48% believing Donda to be better but Instagram polls cannot be monitored efficiently so the results may be skewed. Therefore, the difference in these percentages are not great enough to assert a clear winner from the Freeman student body. Let's take a look at what the charts have to say:

When the albums first dropped, "Certified Lover Boy" took first place on the Apple iTunes chart, while "Donda" followed in second. Currently, "Certified Lover Boy" stands at sixth place while "Donda" has dropped down to 25th place. This could lead us to the conclusion that the entire music-listening population believes "Certified Lover Boy" to be the better album.

These numbers would make sense considering how "Certified Lover Boy" follows the same style that Drake-followers have been loving for decades, which includes deeper meanings and talks of romance and sexual encounters. Although the album holds significant meaning because of its rela-

tion to Kanye West's late mother, "Donda" lacks the relationships necessary to create an album of cohesive themes and sounds.

Yeezy is known for his chaotic sound, which he does showcase on a few tracks of "Donda." It also includes themes of religion in songs like "Praise God," which is a theme that Kanye fans already appreciate from previous albums like "Jesus is King." However, the album is approximately two hours long, leaving the meaning behind his lyrics easy to overlook.

"CLB is an album that can be listened to over and over again," said Freeman senior Jahidi Kouroma.

"CLB is an album that can be listened to over and over again."

-Jahidi Kouroma

West is known for his shock factor. He likes to be different. Comparatively, Drake is the exact opposite, being extremely reluctant to change his style. This leaves Drake fans with an album that is more in-tune with what they already enjoy.

Jahidi also noted "All the best songs on "Donda" were featured." This means that Kanye had to rely on the sound of other artists to make his songs perform better. The tracks that were solely Kanye didn't perform as well for listeners.

Conclusively, it is hard to say which album is truly better. Music is entirely subjective, leaving the choice up to the listener. What we do know is that these artists are both extremely talented. They've changed the hip-hop industry by giving us new and dynamic music that has influenced other

"One thing is for certain: this generation will never forget the presidential candidate Kanye West and his rival Drake."

- Brooke Ward

artists who try to mimic the legendary creators. One thing is for certain: this generation will never forget the presidential candidate Kanye West and his rival Drake.

Freeman Theater Takes the Stage

Daisy Fuller
A&E Editor

In the wake of a show cancellation and a year-and-a-half hiatus, Freeman Thespians prepare to return to the stage this fall with a Shakespearean classic, "A Midsummer's Night Dream." Spirits are high and students are eager to begin the production. Senior and lead actor Robbie Acree said the cancellation of "Into the Woods" in spring of 2020 was "devastating," but that the department is "ready to bounce back."

Mrs. Spears, Freeman's drama teacher and the show's director, said "the kids involved in [the show] are very excited about it." For this production, Mrs. Spears has made the directorial decision to double-cast "A Midsummer's Night Dream." "It's been eighteen months since most kids have been on stage, so I was just trying to give the opportunity to more students [to perform]." The fall production will have six shows instead of the normal three, in light of the two casts and the prolonged time off.

The two lead male characters will be played by the same actors for all shows by seniors Robbie Acree and Charlie Adams. However, the female leads will be double cast. The character of Helena will be played equally by juniors Avery Ingram and Lola Muhlenfield, and Hermia by senior Peyton Meadows and junior Mary Kenzie Hubbard.

"I am really excited [for the play]," said Lola. "I wonder how it's going to play out with everyone's accents." What accent is Lola talking about? Another directorial choice from Mrs. Spears, the Shakespearean play will be set in 1970's Athens, Georgia instead of Athens, Greece. Because of the setting, the actors will be performing exact Shakespearean dialogue in a Georgian southern accent.



"It'll be fun to try new southern accents and the costumes will be super interesting," said Robbie.

Not just the cast will be facing new challenges for "A Midsummer's Night Dream," the crew is as well with a brand-new lighting system. Head of sound and light-

ing, senior Grady Game, said, "the lighting board we just acquired allows us to experiment with certain technical elements Freeman's stage has never seen before." The Drama Department anticipates an enthusiastic reaction to the new system and encourages the student

body to come out and see it in action. "The lights are going to be very different from what people are used to," said Mrs. Spears. "We're going to be able to use a lot more color, I think, it's going to be fun."

Freeman High's production of "A Midsummer's Night Dream" will

hit the stage in mid-November. Come out and support the Freeman drama department and enjoy their exciting rendition of a classic story. "Please come to the show," said Charlie, "there are six shows and if [you all] could come to just one we would really appreciate it!"

Freeman Says Farewell To Andy Jenks

Henry Haggard
Staff Writer

After nine years as Chief of Communications and Community Engagement at Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS), Andy Jenks moves to North Carolina; Freeman says farewell.

Andy Jenks entered his post as an HCPS spokesperson in 2012 after working for the local NBC news station. This past September, after nine years of hard work, he left HCPS to begin his work for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) in North Carolina. His wife and three children will remain in the Freeman district until the moving process is finalized. Soon after, HCPS announced that former Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools strategic communications officer Eileen Cox will take Andy Jenks' place. She will be expected to fulfill the same duties Jenks has since 2012. Some of these include managing HCPS social media accounts, advising school administrators across the county, and, of course, announcing school closures on snow days.

Unlike many other PR departments, Henrico Schools' is especially wide-reaching. The school district boasts nearly 50,000 students across 72 schools, all of whom Jenks was expected to keep informed. Jenks said his goal throughout this time at Henrico Schools was to "put a name and a face with this bureaucratic organization."

As daunting a task as this may seem, in the eyes of many, he succeeded. It's hard to find



PHOTO CREDITS: ANDY JENKS

Andy Jenks' first day at Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools in North Carolina.

a student or staff member who doesn't know Andy Jenks' name- and on the off-chance they don't know his name, they almost certainly know his voice. Freeman junior Zoey Martin describes him as the "celebrity of Henrico County," for his wintertime snow-day announcements. In fact, some Mavericks even own Andy Jenks-themed stickers and t-shirts.

Jenks wasn't expecting all of this fame, but looking back, perhaps he should have. When he first arrived at HCPS, ending his long standing career as a TV news reporter, social media as we know it today was still in its infancy. Jenks felt that schools could use these online platforms to reach a greater number of people. The market for this

was, as Jenks puts it, "untapped."

Slowly but surely, HPCS Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram audiences began to grow. Over the course of his career, Jenks said the district's social media accounts amassed one of the "largest combined audience[s] in Metro Richmond." This is due in part to his tendency to include jokes in his official county social media posts. "If we can build relationships with families through ... internet humor, then perhaps we stand a better chance of our messages coming across effectively," Jenks said.

Believing in the importance of humor, Jenks was known to be able to add a touch of lighthearted comedy to even the most straightforward announcements. Parent

Teacher Association (PTA) President Amy Boyle said that Jenks was "happy to poke a little fun at the situation when that was appropriate." His goal was to ease the divide between Henrico County government and the students, staff, and parents that it serves.

Jenks said that sometimes, "it's necessary to be serious and straightforward," because he did not just announce snow days. He also had to handle much heavier topics. Last school year especially, Jenks had to inform the community of ever-changing COVID-19 protocols and the ins and outs of virtual learning. Freeman Principal John Marshall said that Jenks' balance of humor and seriousness was "a fine line to walk,

which he walked really well."

Though it pushed him to Henrico-celebrity status, the position was a double edged sword for Jenks. When schools stayed open, students would get upset, and when they closed, parents would instead. For many people, Ms. Boyle said, "it's hard to separate the message from the messenger." It was impossible to please everybody, and the backlash to a controversial county decision usually fell on him.

"The benefits" of a spokesperson job, said Jenks, "far outweigh the negative comments that you'll get from time to time." Jenks said of the district, "we never made decisions just because we thought it was the popular thing to do, we made decisions because it was the right thing, or the safest thing to do for our community."

Mr. Marshall said that Jenks "always went above and be-

“My only goal every-day was to do good work for the students, families, and employees.”

- Andy Jenks

yond the scope of his job" to help teachers, administrators, and staff, and he was lucky to have worked with him.

"My only goal every day," Jenks said, "was to do good work for the students, families, and employees of the school system. I hope we did, but that's for other people to judge."

DSF's Favorite Sweetspots in the 804

Maggie Newton
Staff Writer

There is nothing more comforting to overworked and stressed students than a warm, fluffy donut or a decadent slice of chocolate cake. Richmond is well-equipped with a wide variety of bakeries ranging from Pearl's Cupcakes to Shyndigz. The next time you feel overworked, listen to these students' and teachers' advice so you can relax with a delicious, buttery treat that will melt your worries away like chocolate.

Freshman Lila Holdren says she has been going to Westhampton Bakery for her entire life. "I think I just grew up going there. That's where we always went," said Lila. Westhampton Bakery specializes in cakes, cookies, pastries, pies, and donuts. "I like their classic birthday cake, just vanilla cake with chocolate icing and sprinkles. It's really good" said Lila. It's also an excellent way to spend time with friends and family. "It's really close to me and my friends. If we're bored, we can walk there."

Another Freeman family favorite

Pearl's Bake Shoppe

5811 Patterson Ave, Richmond VA, 23226





PHOTO: MAGGIE NEWTON

Inside Pearl's Bake Shoppe in Richmond, VA.

is a restaurant called Shyndigz.

"Shyndigz is really good...their pieces of cake are like eight inches long. They're ginormous and so good," said Lila Holdren. Shyndigz opened in 2010 and since then it has become the go-to spot for colossal, yet delicious slices of cake. They only serve dessert, which is uncommon for most restaurants. Imagine this: for an appetizer you order their salted chocolate caramel cake, and for an entree, you order the fresh fruit cake. For the grand finale, you order the cake du jour.

Mavericks are fond of cupcakes, too. "My favorite [dessert restaurant] is probably Pearl's," says junior, Meg Pollard. "I love their cupcakes." Meg is a regular at Pearl's-- she has been going since she was 10 years old. "I really like their chocolate-on-chocolate cupcake," said Meg. "They also sometimes have a specialty." She recalls the one time they had a chocolate peanut butter flavor. "Honestly, all their original flavors are really good," said Meg.

Pearl's Bake Shoppe has been an institution in the Tuckahoe area for the past 11 years. According to their website, they have won multiple awards for their baked goods since their opening. In 2020, they were voted "Best Cupcakes" by Richmond Magazine. According to Meg, Pearl's is also great for birthday cupcakes. "I always get their cupcakes for my birthday." They have over 15 flavors to choose from everyday, and this includes gluten free and vegan options.

When asked if she could suggest

any other bakeries, Meg Pollard said, "Probably Shyndigz, because I really like their cake." Her favorite flavor to get at Shyndigz is the cookies and creme cake. One of the benefits of Shyndigz is that they don't only serve cake, but also other dessert items such as peanut butter pie, key lime pie, cobbler, and pecan streusel bread pudding.

Kara Bleecher, a French teacher at Freeman enjoys visiting her favorite bakery: Sub Rosa. "I've been going there since they opened and I heard about it," said Mrs. Bleecher. Sub Rosa opened in 2012. They were recognized on a national level when the owners, Evrim and Evin Dogu were nominated for the prestigious James Beard award. The James Beard award is awarded annually to chefs with high culinary achievements.

Sub Rosa has a wide variety of baked goods. They have classic items such as croissants, but they also have items that you normally wouldn't find at most bakeries. Their poğaç, also known as Turkish turnovers, help set Sub Rosa apart from other Richmond bakeries. Sub Rosa is also known for their bread. They even mill their own flour in house. "I love all their bread, their Turkish turnovers, and their shortbread cookies. My sons love their pains au chocolat," said Mrs. Bleecher.

According to a few members of our Freeman Family, Sub Rosa, Shyndigz, Westhampton Bakery, and Pearl's are some of the best bakeries in Richmond. If you are craving something sugary, go ahead and check out one or two to make your day Mav-nificent.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD CARVING PUMPKIN?

TRY...



Ashland Berry Farm: 12607 Old Ridge Rd. Beaverdam, VA



Carter Mountain: 1435 Carters Mountain Trail, Charlottesville, VA



Chesterfield Berry Farm: 26002 Pear Orchard Rd, Moseley, VA



Llyod Family Farm: 12204 Pinhook Rd. Rockville, VA