

# The Splash—2023/2024

## Welcome to a New School Year

We are excited to return to teaching, learning and growing together. This newsletter contains important opening of schools information to help you as a family further prepare and engage in the 2023/2024 school year.

Amanda Edmonds, Principal

Traci Gillette, Asst. Principal

## Freetown Information & Updates

**School Hours:** Please refer to the table below regarding arrival/dismissal times.

Regular School hours	7:45-Doors open 8:00-School day begins	2:25 Dismissal
2hr Early Dis.	7:45-Doors open 8:00– School day begins	12:25 Dismissal
2hr Late Arrival	9:45-Doors open 10:00– School day begins	2:25 Dismissal

**Attendance Matters:** So far this year, our average percentage of students in attendance is 95.3%. Our goal is to remain above 90%. Research shows that children who are absent 18 days or more in Pre-K & K have lowest academic performance in Grade 1. (Pre-K, Kindergarten & 1st grade is where children learn basic skills and building blocks necessary for learning in upper grades.) Chronic absence — missing 10 percent or more of school days due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused absences and suspensions—can translate into students having difficulty learning to read by the third-grade, achieving in middle school, and graduating from high school.

We have included on our school website (found within Attendance) a form to be completed to communicate absence. We ask that you please submit this electronic note if your child is or will be absent.

**Early Dismissals:** Any requests to have your child (ren) excused from class early should be sent to school the morning of the dismissal with your child and given to teacher. The time and reason for dismissal should be included. Please note that we begin schoolwide dismissal at 2:25pm. **No early dismissals will take place after 2:00pm as students and teachers are preparing for departure.**

**Meals:** All students are provided breakfast daily for free, if desired. We ask that all parents complete a meal application in order to see if your child may qualify for reduced or free meals through state/federal requirements. This application may be found on the county website under School Meals/Apply for Free or Reduced Price Meals.

**Student lunches:** We do not accept Door Dash, UberEATS, Chick Fil A deliveries for students. Lunch deliveries, if needed, should occur prior to the lunch time of the student, be labeled by the parent and will be placed in the cafeteria at an identifiable table for pick up. The school will not be responsible for misplaced or mistakenly eaten lunches.

**Cell phones:** Students, once entering the building, should have cell phones off and away. If using during the day, a reminder will be provided. The second occurrence-cell phone will be taken by classroom teacher and given back at the end of the school day. Third occurrence- cell phone will be taken by administration. Parent contact after each occurrence.



### Important Information

- School day begins—8:00am

### Dates to remember

#### September

- September 25-Schools Closed
- September 28-Leading by Feeding (Free Mobile Community Market)

#### October

- October 5-Schools Closed-Yom Kippur
- October 14-Health Fair Marley MS
- October 18—2hr Early Dismissal (Unity Day)
- October 25– Family Cook Along
- October 26—Fall Picture Day (Legacy Studios Photography); Leading by Feeding (Free Mobile Community Market)
- October 30, 31– 2hr Early Dismissal (End of Marking Period)

# Arrival, Dismissal Procedures and other Information

## Freetown Elementary School

**Mission:** We are a community who collaboratively work to create a safe, engaging and supportive environment. We meet the diverse needs of students to create life-long learners.

**Vision:** Teach, Learn, Grow!



### Arrival: (Students are considered late if not in the classroom by 8am.)

#### Bus Riders

- Bus riders and walkers in ACC, ECI and grades 1,4 and 5 will enter the building through the front door.
- Bus riders and Walkers in Grades PreK, K, 2 &3 will walk down the sidewalk and enter the building by the side door.

#### Car Riders

- REMAIN IN YOUR CAR. All bookbags and materials should be with students in the car and not needing to be removed from the trunk.
- All cars should follow the direction of staff, pull forward in the car rider line and students will enter the building by the side door.

### Dismissal: Occurs in the order below.

Car Riders: Families are provided with numbered car tag. Have name tag visible. Remain in your car. Students will be called once the car has pulled up to the sidewalk.

Bus Riders: Bus lists are on our school website as well as posted on our front. There is a separate lane/loop for buses. **This loop should only be used by school buses.** Students will be dismissed by number and assigned bus color. Bus 118-Orange, Bus 556/263-Green, Bus 271-Pink, Bus 675-Purple, Bus 442/147-Yellow, 856-Blue, 825-Red.

Walkers: Called for dismissal after bus riders have been called.

Celebrations: There may be a special occasion/event that your child is celebrating. While **we do not accept store brought food for distribution** (due to allergies), you may wish to send in other items that would reasonably distributed (i.e. pencils, glowsticks, etc.)

Medication: Students and parents/guardians are advised that NO medication will be accepted by school personnel, or allowed to be administered under the supervision of school personnel, without the receipt of the completed and signed medication authorization form. **Under no circumstances are students permitted to carry any medication on their person, in their desk, in their locker, etc.** These medications include such over-the-counter drugs as aspirin, Tylenol, Motrin, cough drops, calamine lotion, cough medicine and all other non-prescription drugs, as well as inhalers unless otherwise permitted to carry by a physician and confirmation of school nurse. This could place them in a drug-related situation and possibly lead to suspension. Medical forms may be obtained in the Health Room and may also be downloaded from the AACPS website.

Emergency Form: This important information is collected each year to ensure that we have the most up-to-date contact and safety information on file for your student. The **Emergency Card Verification Form** can be accessed online at [www.aacps.org/families](http://www.aacps.org/families). An email with directions on how to access your student's form was sent to the email address for the primary contact for your student. If you do not receive an email or have any problems accessing the form, please reach out to the school.

Cameras: Freetown Elementary is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is NOT monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations. During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system. If you have any concerns about the system, please call the Supervisor of Security at 410-222-5083.