



UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

- 5-6: Schmeckfest
- 10-16: MSC Trip to Lancaster, PA
- 18: 2:30 PM Dismissal; 2:40 PM Staff Meeting
- 19-21: NO SCHOOL; Easter Break
- 22: School resumes
- 25: FULL DAY OF SCHOOL
- 25: 7:00 PM Elementary Spring Concert @ Dining Hall
- 26: 12:50 PM Dismissal; 1:00 PM AdvancEd Meeting
- 26: Jr/Sr Banquet 5:30 PM Grand March; 6:30 PM Meal

Change of Dates:

- April 22: This was originally a scheduled break (for Easter) but because of the # of snow days and the recent flooding days, **we are resuming school on Easter Monday. There WILL be school on Monday, April 22!**
- May 10, 7:30 PM: Pep Band Concert (was originally May 14)
- May 14, 7:30 PM: HS Choir and Concert Band concert (was originally May 10)

April 10-16: FA Service Days MSC Chamber Choir Trip

While the Chamber Choir is in Lancaster, PA, the remaining students will be participating in two regular school days and 2 service days and 1 field trip. The schedule will be as follows:

- i. Wednesday, 10th – School day
- ii. Thursday, 11th – Service at Arboretum/Fensel's
- iii. Friday, 12th - Service at Arboretum/Fensel's
- iv. Monday, 15th – School day
- v. Tuesday, 16th – Field trip to the Washington Pavilion

ALL students at FA will have an 8:00AM – 3:00PM school day!

The after school room will be opened from 3:00-3:30 PM. Your student will be required to be picked up at 3:30. If you have concerns, please contact the office.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

ELEMENTARY CONCERT

APRIL 25 @ 7:00 p.m. in PH Dining Hall

The 5th & 6th grade band will again perform for you during the elementary concert. The 7th & 8th graders will present the ensembles that they are preparing for the May 3rd Middle School Contest held at Freeman Public Elementary School.

GRADES 5-8 PRACTICE = PIZZA PARTY

This time of year is especially busy for the instrumentalists in grades 5-8 as they are working on concert band music for the April 25 (grades 5-8) and May 14 (grades 7-12) concerts, pep band music for the pep band concert on May 10 (grades 7-12), and solo and ensemble music for the middle school contest on May 3 (grades 5-8). **(Please note the switch in dates for the 7-12 Concert Band and Pep Band Concerts.)**

There should be no problem having enough music to practice 100 minutes every week this third trimester. In addition to weekly practice incentives, there will be a pizza party for all middle school student musicians who earn 100 minutes of practice each week this trimester.

We were proud to have five middle school students (three students received three-year awards) representing Freeman Academy at the SD Middle School All-State Band in Huron on March 1 & 2 which proves that practice does pay off!!

REGION I HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL CONTEST RESULTS

Twenty-seven Freeman Academy high school students participated in the annual Region I Instrumental contest at Lennox High School on Wednesday, March 6. Freeman Academy took 32 events including 19 solos and 13 ensembles. Results are as follows:

SOLOS: Superior rating – Meredith Graber, flute; Jessica Sun, flute; Autumn Hare, flute; Phillip Balzer, oboe; Alyssa Fink, oboe; Maria Cortes, clarinet; Andrea Wollman, alto saxophone; Areli Cortes, trumpet; Angel Hernandez, French horn; Josie Epp, trombone; Titus Roesler, euphonium; Benjamin Anderson, timpani; Gavin Haggerty, timpani; Beatrice Nelson, xylophone. Excellent rating – Paul Hoff, baritone saxophone; Timothy Epp, trumpet; Aidan Kesteloot, trumpet; Noah Hofer, drum set. Good rating – Tyler Brockmueller, trumpet.

ENSEMBLES: Superior rating – *Woodwind Ensemble* (Meredith Graber, flute; Phillip Balzer, oboe; Kade Rupp, clarinet – perfect score), *Like Woodwind Duet* (Meredith Graber & Jessica Sun, flutes); *Unlike Woodwind Duet* (Autumn Hare, flute & Alyssa Fink, oboe); *Unlike Woodwind Duet* (Beau Miller, alto saxophone & Gabe Miller, tenor saxophone); *Woodwind Quintet* (Jessica Sun, flute; Alyssa Fink, oboe; Kelly Liu, clarinet; Angel Hernandez, French horn; Phillip Balzer, bassoon); *Saxophone Ensemble* (Andrea Wollman, Oscar Chen, & Beau Miller, alto saxophones; Gabe Miller, tenor saxophone, and Paul Hoff, baritone saxophone); *Unlike Brass Duet* (Josie Epp, trombone & Titus Roesler, euphonium); *Brass Quartet* (Areli Cortes & Tyler Brockmueller, trumpets; Josie Epp, trombone; Titus Roesler, euphonium); *Brass Quartet* (Aidan Kesteloot & Timothy Epp, trumpets; Angel Hernandez, French horn; Jaden Thomas, euphonium); *Percussion Group* (Benjamin Anderson, tom-toms; Luke Allison, congas; Phillip Balzer, piano; Tyler Brockmueller, chimes; Oscar Chen, claves; Areli Cortes, bongos; Josie Epp, xylophone; Kaitlyn Epp, triangle; Meredith Graber, vibraphone; Gavin Haggerty, snare drum; Angel Hernandez, marimba; Noah Hofer, timpani; Paul Hoff, bass drum; Kelly Liu, tambourine; Beatrice Nelson, glockenspiel; Kade Rupp, woodblocks; Jessica Sun, marimba; Jaden Thomas, suspended cymbal; Andrea Wollman, bass guitar. Excellent rating – *Clarinet Quartet* (Kelly Liu, Kaitlyn Epp, Maria Cortes, clarinets; Kade Rupp, bass clarinet); *Like Woodwind Duet* (Kaitlyn Epp & Maria Cortes, clarinets); *Percussion Ensemble* (Luke Allison, Benjamin Anderson, Gavin Haggerty, Noah Hofer, Beatrice Nelson).

Soloists were accompanied on piano by Debra Schmeichel, Janet Balzer, Amy Hofer Vetch, and Donna Ries. Janet Balzer assisted Freeman Academy's director, Donna Ries, during rehearsals.

CONCERT DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 25 (Thursday) – Middle School (grades 5-8) Bands with 1-8 Vocal Concert

May 3 (Friday) – Middle School Solo and Ensemble Contest @ Freeman Public

May 10 (Friday) – Pep Band Concert and Awards Night

May 14 (Tuesday) – High School Concert including grades 7 – 12 concert band

TRIP News and Updates

Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (TRIP) Tip for April

Parent **Wendy Miller:**

The TRIP program has worked its way into our budget. Each cycle, I plan for groceries and gas to take advantage of having that "ready cash" at the local stores. We are thrilled that so many of our local merchants offer this added incentive for keeping our money local!

Another feature that I use frequently is ScripNow, because you do not have to wait to receive a physical card. Order and pay online at the ShopWithScrip website and you will instantly have access to your printable gift card. Remember this is for only select participating national vendors but you will be amazed how you can benefit from this service. Are you booking airline tickets? Check your carrier. What about a vacation that includes a stay at a hotel? A number of chains are listed. Online purchases at Amazon are also another great way to make use of ScripNow.

If you haven't already, check out this option. It is a GOOD one!

Share your best TRIP tip with us for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to a local business of your choice! The next drawing will take place in June 2019. Please submit to Barb Yoder, at mbyoder@goldenwest.net, a quote we can publish in a future monthly newsletter.

TRIP Schedule

Orders Due / Pick Up Days

Friday, April 5 / Friday, April 12

Friday, April 19 / Friday, April 26

If you are interested in learning more about TRIP please feel free to call the office – and ask to talk to Karen.

Freeman Academy Students Place 1st and 2nd in MCC's 20th Annual Public Policy Essay Contest

Every year, Mennonite Central Committee holds an essay contest for high school students to promote church-wide awareness of public policy issues, to help youth understand the relationship of faith to public policy, and to make people aware of what the MCC Washington Office is working on. This essay is a required assignment of the senior curriculum every year in Mrs. Ortman's English class where students are taught how to write research papers, how to write informative and persuasive essays, and how to think critically from a biblical perspective.

This year's topics of choice were **Gun Violence**: What policies should federal policymakers put in place to reduce the number of gun deaths and injuries in the U.S.?; **Immigration**: How should the U.S. respond to those seeking asylum at our southern borders?; and **North Korea**: What changes need to take place in the U.S. government policy regarding North Korea to shift away from threats of war to diplomacy?

Kaitlyn Epp, daughter of Nathan and Sheila Epp, won first place for her essay, "Gun Violence and Mental Health." *Meredith Graber*, daughter of Joey and Patti Graber, received second place for her essay on gun violence, "Trigger Warning." Third place went to *Maximillian Birkey* from Fort Dodge Senior High School. All three essays will advance to the national level of the contest.

The MCC Central States judge was Michelle Armster, Executive Director of MCC central States in North Newton, Kansas. She said, "I was honored to read the essays. They challenged my thinking about gun violence as well as the relationship between the U.S. and North Korea. I realized that young people are struggling with the prevalence of gun violence and challenge of finding solutions. Ultimately, the young people give me hope. I saw the evidence of deep thinkers, compassionate human beings, and faithful followers of Jesus."

The essays will be posted on the Freeman Academy website.

Vocal Music Department

MSC (Mennonite Schools Council) Choir festival, April 10-16, 2019.

Freeman Academy High School parents should have received a packet of information regarding this trip. If there are any questions do not hesitate to contact Amy Hofer Vetch, Cindy Graber, or Nathan Epp.

South Dakota ACDA High School (Sophomores & Juniors) Honors choir auditions, Sioux Falls, Roosevelt HS, Saturday, April 6th.

High School Honors Choir auditions will be held at Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls on April 6th. Students who have registered for auditions will meet in the morning in the FA parking lot.

Elementary Spring Concert, Thursday, April 25 at 7:00 pm

Pioneer Hall Dining Hall

The elementary grades will present their Spring Concert Thursday, April 25th in the Pioneer Hall Dining Hall at 7:00 pm. Come join us as we share our Spring music!

5-8th Music classes

Currently, we are working on solos and ensembles in preparation for the elementary music contest hosted by Freeman Public scheduled May 3rd. All students in the music classes will perform at this contest in, at least, one event. Complete schedule information will be forthcoming.

High School Choir, Concert Band and Pep Band Spring Concert Date Change

May 10th Pep Band Concert

May 14 at 7:30 pm HS and Concert Band Spring Concert

The High School and Concert Band Spring Concert date has been changed to Tuesday, May 14 at 7:30 pm. The Pep Band concert scheduled for that date has been moved to Friday, May 10th.