



REBEL SIGNAL

September 2011

For the students, patrons and friends of Douglas S. Freeman High School

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Principal's Letter

Hurricane Irene's arrival presented not only difficult weather conditions but challenges to the timely completion of pre-school preparations. With the cooperation and flexibility of numerous individuals, the 2011-12 school year is off to a smooth start. We appreciate the flexibility of students, parents, and teachers as everyone modified their plans. After a summer spent preparing the building and grounds for the new school year, the C&M staff found themselves faced with a great deal of work to do in only a few days. By the time the students reported on the first day of school, the building was once again spotless for the start of the year.

The newest Rebels, members of the Class of 2015, have been given a warm Freeman welcome to the school. Through Rebel Camp, the assistance of members of the SCA who have visited freshman homerooms, and the work of the faculty and staff, ninth graders have had multiple opportunities to learn the ropes during their first weeks of classes.

With an enrollment of approximately 1700, the student body is ready for a year full of hard work and extracurricular activities, whether as participants or as spectators. We encourage students of all grade levels to take advantage of the many clubs and sports to round out their high school experience.

On September 16, we were pleased to host a Constitution Day Assembly. As part of the National Constitution Plaque Initiative, Freeman has received a set of full-scale bronze reproductions of the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These five plaques will be displayed proudly in the main hall so that the students will be able to experience them as a learning tool on a daily basis. We are thankful for the support of those individuals who made this a reality for our school.

Anne Poates

Visit the PTSA website
at www.freemanptsa.org
for the latest information
on PTSA committees and
events.

PTSA President

Dear Freeman Families

Welcome Rebels! We certainly have overcome some challenges at the end of our summer and the start of our academic year with Hurricane Irene's winds knocking down our trees, knocking out our power, interrupting cable, internet and phone services. I hope that your family weathered the storm okay with the help of friends and neighbors. I believe we will be hearing the sound of chain saws for weeks to come.

Fee Night brought us together to meet for the first time or to reacquaint with old friends and classmates. Thank you to those who have joined PTSA. Your PTSA creates the Signals (our DSF newsletter) and the Student Directory. The PTSA sponsors Baccalaureate and All Night After Graduation Party for our seniors.

Thank you for your Freeman Fund contributions that will continue to pay for targeted items that our teachers need to enhance your student's instruction: calculators, books, shelving, bulletin boards. Your generosity to the Freeman Fund will bring an exciting program to your students called Rachel's Challenge on October 27, 2011. Our community will be positively impacted by the story of Rachel Scott, the first victim of the Columbine shooting in Colorado. Rachel's Challenge will inspire our students, our teachers, our families to make a positive change in the culture of our school. Your donations to the Freeman Fund will support this program. Make your donation today.

2011-2012 is the Year of Communication at Freeman. Communicate with your student on how he/she is doing. What is working? What needs to improve? Communicate with your student's teacher on how to help to improve the environment in the classroom, your student's educational experience and the overall curriculum education in Henrico County Public Schools. Communicate with each other on how to improve your student's overall educational experience. The DSF PTSA website is new and improved. Please visit the website at freemanptsa.org and sign up for email communication. We will send out news to you and yours about the happenings at Freeman.

Douglas S. Freeman High School has a rich heritage in our community. Many of you attended DSF. My husband and his two brothers attended in the 1970's. Our three sons each attended DSF. Now our daughter is a sophomore at DSF.

Join. Be a part of the heritage. We need each other. We need to become one voice to help each of our children. Join the DSF PTSA. We need you. Please contact me with your ideas and with your concerns.

Go Rebels!

Ann Slough

DSF PTSA President 2011-2012

EveryChild.OneVoice.

Rachel's Challenge is coming to Freeman October 27!

Rachel Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine tragedy on April 20, 1999. One month later Rachel's father, Darrell, was asked to speak before a Congressional Subcommittee on School Violence. Those in attendance expected his talk to revolve around gun control. He surprised everyone with the message that guns are a symptom and the root problem is what we are, or are not, teaching our children. He felt that when we stop teaching character and morals, and right from wrong, we are creating environments within which Columbine-like incidents can occur. Darrell's speech instantly became an internet sensation, striking a chord with millions of people. Soon he was getting requests from all over the country to tell Rachel's story, which he quickly discovered is a powerful antidote to bullying and violence.

Less than a year later he and his wife started Rachel's Challenge. Their intent was to honor Rachel's life and help prevent other families from going through what he and the rest of the Columbine families had endured. Their focus was telling students how Rachel deliberately reached out to those who were different from her, were picked on by others, or alone.

After her death many of the kids to whom Rachel had reached out approached the Scott family with stories about the profound impact her simple acts of kindness had on their lives, even preventing one young man from committing suicide. Darrell soon realized that Rachel's story is transformational to many who hear it. This true, simple, pure story routinely elicits an intense personal experience, awakens the innate need for connection with others, and creates an overwhelming desire to act; to do something different; to make a difference.

Today Rachel's Challenge exists to inspire, equip and empower every student to create a permanent, positive culture change in their school and community by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion. People leave a legacy – positive or negative. Over the past 10 years over 11 million people have heard her story in an hour-long program in live settings all over the world. A 90 minute training session is then offered to 100 students who want to be a catalyst for change. As Rachel wrote in an essay shortly before her death: "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go."

For more information on Rachel's Challenge please go to www.rachelschallenge.org. The PTSA is very grateful for your donation to the Freeman Fund to support this program. Total cost to the PTSA is \$3700, but we feel the program is very worthwhile and will impact your student greatly. The program will **also** be given in the evening of October 27 at Freeman HS and will be open to all parents and the community. More information to come!

Freeman Bands

The Rebel Brigade 2011 Field Show

“Blue and Gray”

Student Leadership

Head Drum Major – Brittany Gunter

Asst. Drum Major – Jason Diaz

Field Commander – Jesse Woon

Field Lieutenant – Abram Basoulas

Flutes – Alec McElroy

Clarinets – Amelia Cohen & Vince Borrero

Saxophones – Dominique Robinson

High Brass - Joe Pittman

Trombones – Jesse Woon

Baritones/Tubas – Jackson Collier

Drumline Captains – Abram Basalious & Larson Rademacher

Pit Percussion – Diana Yuan & Bobby McGuigan

Color Guard – Litta Paulson & Paula Ortiz

Competition Schedule

Come see your Rebel Brigade compete with other bands from all over

Sat., Sept. 17 – Tucker H. S.

Sat., Oct. 22 VBODA – Hermitage H.S.

Sat., Oct. 1 – Midlothian H.S.

Sat., Oct. 29 – Powhatan H. S.

Sat., Oct. 8 Bluestone H. S.

Sat., Nov. 5 – Godwin H.S.

Tues., Oct. 11 Highland Springs – All County Marching Band Showcase

Brunswick Stew Sale – Saturday, November 5th. \$7.00/quart. Order early and order often.

Rebel Cards are on sale now: \$10.00 each. Cards include great discounts at your favorite places to eat and shop. Also, these make a good gift.

Visit our spirit table at all home football games for doughnuts and other goodies and Freeman Rebel spirit items.

Visit our website at www.freemanband.org

Chorus News

The Chorus Department is busy with preparations and rehearsing for several big events. Our Preview Concert is Monday, October 17, in our auditorium at 7:00 p.m. It's free and open to all. On Thursday, October 27, we will travel to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and perform Vivaldi's Gloria with Patrick Henry High School. The concert is at 7:00 p.m. and free and open to all.

Please remember our Veteran's Day Assembly on Friday, November 11. It will be held in our school gym at 9:00 a.m. Our guest speaker is former POW Paul Galanti. If you have a family member who is active or retired military, please invite them to be present at our assembly. They will be our special guests. Forms will be available in the office for information on your serviceman or woman, so that they can be recognized during the assembly.

On September 19, our Choral Boosters will begin our Virginia Diners Peanuts fundraiser. Please support the chorus members by purchasing peanuts products from them during our sale. Thanks for your support!

Choral Boosters

The Freeman Choral Boosters support our five DSF choral groups through volunteer and fundraising efforts in order to make it possible for these very talented students to participate in local and national competitions and concerts. Without your support this would not be possible. Please consider joining Choral Boosters this year and become a part of this winning program through a donation at one of our Patron levels which will also guarantee you the best seat in the house!

Conductor: \$100	Soloist: \$50
Quartet: \$25	Concert: \$10

To join, please make your check payable to DSF Choral Boosters and mail to:
DSF Choral Program Membership, c/o Gwen Tilley, 8701 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, Virginia 23229.

For more information on membership and Volunteer opportunities, please contact:

Jane Werner 288-3492 or Gwen Tilley 282-4297

Choral Night at Chick-Fil-A

DSF Choral department has a fundraiser EVERY 3RD Wednesday of the month at CHICK-FIL-A on Parham from 6-8pm.

Please remember to mention the DSF fundraiser, and we will receive 15% of all sales!

First Chick-Fil-A Choral Fundraiser:

Wednesday, September 21 and support Freeman Chorus.

Thank You!

National PTA Reflections Program 2011-2012 Theme “Diversity Means...”

The Freeman Parent Teacher Student Association is pleased to announce the return of the National PTA Reflections Program. This program is one of the largest student arts recognition programs in the Country, inspiring students to pursue their artistic talents. The theme for this year is “Diversity Means...” All Freeman students are eligible to participate, with their choice of artistic entries from six categories: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts. There are no limits to the number of entries a student may submit. Completed entries must be received in the front office by **Friday, October 21**. Please pick up informational flyers in the front office and check the new Freeman PTSA website, www.freemanptsa.org, for updates and links to program information.

Homecoming Weekend-October 21st and October 22nd

Friday, October 21st

Parade – 5:45 p.m. start time at Tuckahoe Middle School. Parade will proceed to DSF from there. We are in need of convertibles for the Homecoming Parade. We would prefer that you be the driver for your own car. Please email Andrea Baker at ajbaker@henrico.k12.va.us if you are able to help! We thank you in advance!

Game – 7:00 p.m. against John Marshall. Our Homecoming Theme this year is “Freeman Strong”. At halftime, we will present the Homecoming Princesses and crown the Homecoming Queen and Maid of Honor.

Saturday, October 22nd

Dance – 8:00 – 11:00 p.m. in the DSF Big Gym. All tickets must be purchased in advanced!!! VERY IMPORTANT - If the student’s guest to the Homecoming Dance is a non-DSF student, then you must fill out an approval form available at the main office.

Go Rebels!

Library Lowdown

We are very happy to report that, thanks to the tremendous support from students, parents, faculty and community, our fourth annual Barnes and Noble Book Fair was a great success. The Library received a gift card from Barnes and Noble in excess of \$1000.00. The Barnes and Noble staff commented that DSF High School had the most successful book fair of any public school they have hosted. They were very impressed with our community and patrons.

The beginning of a new school year is always exciting and hectic. This has certainly been true for the DSF Library. During the first week of school, Ms. Schmid and Miss Wheeler visited study halls, inviting students to come to the Library to take advantage of available materials. Study hall classes were followed by the enthusiastic freshmen for ninth grade Library orientation. Many of the ESL classes joined in the fun, as together, we all learned how to navigate the Library. General classes followed, accessing the Library for research, check-out and pleasure reading. *Banned Book Week* closed out the month, providing the entire Freeman community an opportunity to celebrate our freedom to read. We are currently making preparations for the month of October which will feature activities to celebrate *Teen Read Week*.

If you have a senior in your family this year, a great way to honor him/her is to donate a "Legacy Book" to the Library. For a contribution of \$25.00, a book will be purchased that will contain a book plate with your child's name and date of graduation. This book will become a permanent addition to the collection and a lasting memento of your child's DSF High School experience. Please contact Ms. Schmid or Miss Wheeler for more information.

Plans are already underway for this year's book fair. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 2nd and join us at Barnes and Noble, Libbie Place to support the DSF High School Library.

Student Drop Off/Pick Up and Student Parking

Freeman students should be dropped off and picked up on **Camden Drive**. The bus loop is only for buses, also students and parents should **never** use this as a drop off/pick up location. Henrico County Police Department will issue tickets for stopping/standing still on Three Chopt Road.

All student drivers with campus parking privileges are to adhere to safe driving practices. Please be aware that the Freeman parking lot is Henrico County property, and reckless driving tickets will be issued by the police if a student is seen driving recklessly. In addition, students may use this lot only if a decal is purchased at the school, and that campus parking is a privilege. Those students who park without a decal are subject to their vehicle being "booted" (immobilized). Let's make our campus a safe place by adhering to all rules that pertain to driving safety and etiquette. Go Rebels!!!

Testing Information

Any Junior or Senior who has completed and passed the English 10 class, but has NOT passed the corresponding SOL, will take the Fall Writing test on October 18 and 19 during school hours. If you have any questions, you may contact Laura McKinney at Freeman.

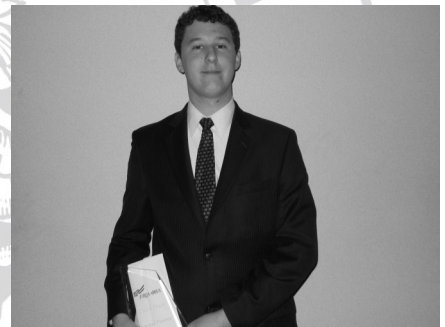
PSAT testing will occur October 18 in the morning.. This year, testing is for tenth and eleventh graders. Be sure your student eats a healthy breakfast and get a good night's sleep before the test!

FBLA Information

Senior Eric Kramer and Junior Eric Morris attended the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida from June 28 to July 2. Along with their adviser, Mrs. Hollowell, they attended rallies, leadership seminars and competed against the rest of the nation's best in Business Law and Personal Finance. Eric Morris placed 3rd in the nation in Personal Finance. Congratulations Eric!!!

Congratulations to the 2011-2012 FBLA officers:

President	Emily Bruch
Vice President	Eric Morris
Historian	Jenna McNamee
Reporter	Jessica Faison
Secretary	Sierra White
Parliamentarian	Brian Toole



The Business Department will begin their annual fundraiser on September 19. For the next two weeks, all business students will be participating in this On-Line Marketing Project. If you do not know any business students, you can still help Freeman by going to www.gaschoolstore.com, when prompted to enter a school code, enter **1003474**. Get all your holiday shopping done in one place, it will ship directly to you without paying extra shipping costs, and help out your school.

NHS Trunk or Treat

The National Honors Society will host its Annual Trunk or Treat in the Freeman Drivers' Ed Parking Lot on October 29th from 10 am to 11:30 am. Elementary-aged and younger children are encouraged to come dressed up in their costumes to get a head start on Halloween.



FACT

“The Program/FACT Committee arranges speakers and introduces topics to inform, support and enhance the education, health and well-being of all students.” Our first two FACT meetings are on Wednesday, October 12, and Wednesday, November 16. Both coffees will be held in the Freeman teacher’s lunchroom at 9a and will last about an hour.

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

‘Teens, Technology and Tethering: How to Navigate in Cyber Space with Your Child’ Jim Astrove, Director of Technology at St. Catherine’s School and a 21-year Henrico County educator, will give us tips and trends which are designed to help us navigate the cyber world road map for our children.

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

‘How to Keep your Teen Alcohol and Drug Free’ Denise Miller is Chair of the Parents Council of Commonwealth Parenting and serves on the Regional Drug Free Alliance and Henrico County’s Too Smart 2 Start Coalition. Ms. Miller has spoken at numerous public and private schools and community forums in Central Virginia, and has been published in the Richmond Times Dispatch and Richmond Family Magazine. She was also a former school teacher and FBI agent. Ms. Miller lives in Richmond with her husband Dr. Larry Miller and her two college-age children.

Baccalaureate

The Freeman Baccalaureate is an interdenominational service held off campus the night before graduation for the students of the senior class, their families and friends. Participation is completely voluntary. The program lasts about one hour, and highlights the talents of the senior class through reflective speeches, songs, and prayers. Parts of the program are usually given by clergy of various faiths.

If you are interested in helping to organize Baccalaureate this year please contact committee chairpersons:

Chad Nystrom

chad.nystrom@verizon.net

Liz Siebers

esiebers@richmond.edu

French Club

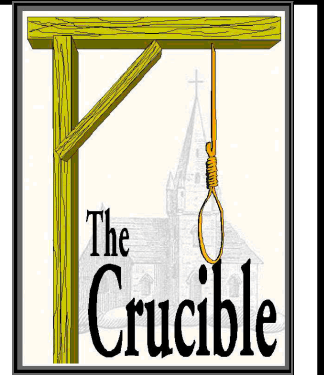


Parlez-vous français ? Get involved, join French club! The club will meet once a month and the meetings will rotate between before school and after school to accommodate all students. Pay dues to Mme Roberts or Mme Schulhoff. Dues are \$5.

Fall Play

The Freeman Drama Department is pleased to present Arthur Miller's **The Crucible**. You will have three chances to catch the show, November 17 through November 19. Be sure to get your tickets early to get the best seats in the house! Tickets will be on sale during all lunches approximately two weeks before the show. Tickets will also be available at the door, if available.

Show your support for Freeman by attending!



School Counseling Information

We have several announcements from School Counseling:

- The Transcript Request process has changed. Check with your Senior to find out what has changed. They will be finding out in the English 12 class. The fee is going up to \$5 per transcript.
- The Senior Handbook is available on the DSF School Counseling website:
http://teachers.henrico.k12.va.us/freeman/steele_k/index.html#Top%20of%20Page
- November 1 from 6:30 to 8:00, Tucker High School will host College and Career Night. This is a great opportunity to learn about colleges from around the area. Students can also learn about other options after high school.
- December 6, Godwin High School will host a parent workshop on RESPONSE. This is a workshop about suicide prevention and all parents are encouraged to attend.

Signal Submission Dates

Deadlines for Signal submissions

Deadline for Signal article submissions: 9/12

Deadline for Signal article submissions: 10/17

Deadline for Signal article submissions: 1/9

Deadline for Signal article submissions: 3/12

Deadline for Signal article submissions: 5/24 (last issue for the school year)

Rebel Signal Subscription

This year we have re-evaluated delivery of the Signals newsletter. This first issue will be printed and sent to all students via mail. 3 options are available to receive the next 4 issues of Signals:

- 1) paid subscription complete the form below and mail
- 2) you may choose to receive the Signal newsletter by email (you must sign up to receive this by clicking the link on the bottom of page).(FREE)
- 3) you may view the Signal on-line for FREE at www.freemanptsa.orgonce it is posted to the website

Signals Subscription Order Form

You can purchase a subscription for \$10.00 and receive a paper copy of all the newsletters for 2011-2012 by mail.

A Subscription for \$10 to Signals will include 4 issues. There will be 4 issues for each of the following nine weeks. Fill out the form below to receive your Signals newsletter by mail.

Write your check to Freeman PTSA for \$10.00 and mail both the check and form to:

Douglas S. Freeman
 Attn: Laura Hollowell - Signals
 8701 Three Chopt Road
 Henrico, VA 23229

If you have any questions, please e-mail signal@freemanptsa.org

Name _____

Student's Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____



Douglas S. Freeman High School
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Henrico, VA 23229

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Assistant Principals

Warren Ahrens
Jeri Baskerville
Andrew Mey
Callis West

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Laura Hollowell
Laura McKinney
Gretchen Sweat

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