



The Ambassador



Freedom 7 Elementary School of International Studies
An International Baccalaureate World School

Kathryn Lott, Principal Lisa Megown, Assistant Principal

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

August 25, 2023



Dear families,

We had an exciting week at Freedom 7! From the Intergalactic Penny Wars to Parent Night and Club Showcase.



Thank you for taking the time to attend our 23-24 Parent Night. Your attendance and support mean the world to us, and we greatly appreciate your dedication to your child's education and wanting to learn all the ways you can support the classroom. I know the teachers were excited to share insights into the PYP, teaching methods, and ways to support your child. We hope you found the presentations informative and that it helped you have a clearer understanding of the IB Curriculum at Freedom 7.

“Do. Or do not. There is no try.” We definitely DID! Our Penny Wars success was OUT OF THIS GALAXY for sure! Turns out, not only was the **“FORCE”** with us... so is the 4th! **The 4th GRADE!** Congratulations to Mrs. Robertson's, Ms. Schoon's, and Mrs. Tarver's 4th grade classes for pulling together, avoiding the sabotage, and coming out on TOP of PENNY WARS! EVERY single Jedi should be proud of our results! Together we raised over \$19,000! It was certainly a week of competition, amazing volunteer involvement, and most of all FUN! I thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

The Force is strong with this one!!! Freedom 7 Rocks! #unitedIB

Kathy Lott



We need your HELP with Morning Drop-Off:

If possible, please do not drop your child before 8:45 unless they are planning to eat school breakfast. All students arriving at 8:30 are held in the cafeteria. Most mornings there isn't enough room to sit due to so many "non-eaters" arriving too early on campus! Thank you for your help.

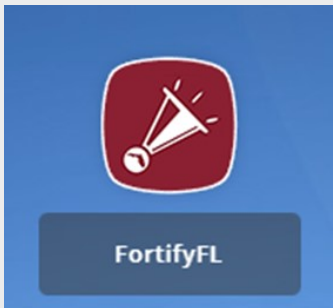
400 Fourth Street South, Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931
Telephone: 321-868-6610 Fax: 321-877-0931 <https://www.brevardschools.org/Freedom7ES>

Freedom 7 Elementary School of International Studies, an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme School, provides a quality public education with a rigorous and relevant transdisciplinary curriculum. Students are encouraged to become critical and open-minded thinkers, lifelong learners and compassionate world citizens who respect cultural diversity and take action to better our world.

The Learner Profile, Caring

Students who are CARING want people around them to be happy and are sensitive to their needs. They think about the world and work to take care of their community and the environment. They remember to treat others how they would like to be treated. *How can parents help to develop students who are Caring at home?*

- Role model the caring behavior you would like to see in your child all the time. Your child has big ears and eyes and notices everything you do. Using kind words, helping people without being asked, and being an active listener all show your child that you care about people. Even a simple thing, like holding a door for someone, shows your child that you are aware of others around you and want to help them.
- Think about how your family can get involved with community organizations.
- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. By developing children who care about the environment, you are helping the future of the globe.
- Smile.
- After reading a book, spend some time considering how the people in the book acted. Was someone in the book caring? All of the time or just some of the time?



Students in Florida can report suspicious activity to the Attorney General's Office using the free Fortify Florida (FortifyFL) app. Officials from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Department of Education, explained that the app allows students to quickly send information that could potentially save lives during an emergency - like an active shooting. "When I spoke to parents, teachers and students following the

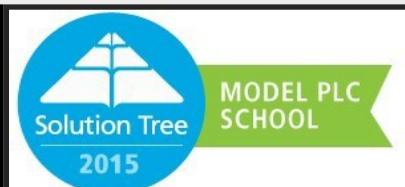
Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy, I learned there was a gap in communication between law enforcement agencies and school officials," she said. The FortifyFL app is now available to download in the Apple App Store and Google Play store. All students have access to the app while at school through their Launchpad.

Mission

To serve every student with excellence as the standard.

Vision

Brevard Public Schools will serve our community and enhance students' lives by delivering the highest quality education in a culture of dedication, collaboration, & learning.





BREVARD CHILDREN'S BUSINESS FAIR: Their biggest and best fair to date!

Brevard Children's Business Fair is excited to announce cash awards sponsored by Pizza Gallery & Grill and 28 North Gastropub at their 5th annual event! At all their events, judges tour the event and interact with all the entrepreneurs to find out more about their business. This is where the kid bosses shine when they talk about how passionate they are about the work they've put in!

- \$500 "Beezos Award" Best In Show
- \$250 "Thomas Edison Award" Most Original Business Idea
- \$150 "Artemis Rocket Award" Highest Business Potential
- \$100 for the "Walt Disney Award" Most Passionate Entrepreneur



They still have some spots left for kids from the ages of 6 to 17 to register for the Saturday November 18, 2023, from 10am to 1pm at The Avenue Viera event! Registration will be closing in a few weeks, so submit your application today!

Please review all rules & guidelines before submitting an application:

Rules/guidelines: <https://www.brevardcbf.org/faqs>

Submit an application: <https://www.childrensbusinessfair.org/brevard>

Acceptance emails are sent out every Saturday!

**The Brevard Children's Business Fair is a local nonprofit organization that is operated by a volunteer committee, providing children in the community an opportunity to unleash their inner entrepreneur. **

August 28-September 1

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 1	Day 0

HAVE YOU READ BPS'S CELL PHONE POLICY?

ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE A SIGNED BPS CELL PHONE CONTRACT ON FILE AT SCHOOL.

READ THE BPS CELL PHONE POLICY BY [CLICKING HERE](#)

Please be advised that Verenise Colado, Karen Mott and Jaime Rhing are teaching out of field in the certification area ESOL for the school year 2023-2024. Mrs. Colado, Mrs. Mott and Mrs. Rhing all meet the State requirements to teach in the public schools and are currently working toward certification in ESOL, that is necessary. This notification is a Department of Education requirement for the State of Florida. Be assured that the Brevard County Public School District is dedicated to serving every student with excellence as the standard. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Lott if you have questions regarding Mrs. Colado's, Mrs. Mott's, or Mrs. Rhing's qualifications.



LONG SLEEVED BLUE RIBBON SHIRTS

Our Freedom 7 Blue Ribbon, Long Sleeved uniform t-shirts are only available by **pre-ordering** them at this time. Please complete this form and return it to your child’s teacher or the front office along with payment no later than **October 2, 2023**.

The prices for the long-sleeved shirts will be: \$16.00 for youth sizes \$17.00 for adult sizes

Long-Sleeved Blue Ribbon Shirt Order

Student Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Youth size quantity, \$16.00 each: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____

Adult size quantity, \$17.00 each: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____

Check amount: _____ Check # _____ Cash \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to “Freedom 7 Elementary School”

Orders can be placed through your FOCUS account also.

Your Contact Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

GSP Starting Dates

Hi! I am Arianne Rivera, the new GSP (Gifted Services) teacher for Grades 3-6. A newsletter went home with GSP students in their Friday folders on Aug. 18. If you haven’t seen it, check those folders or email me at rivera.arianne@brevardschools.org. for some information. See below for GSP starting dates.

GSP in Room 501

3rd Grade: Usually Day 3 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Starting Sept. 18)

4th Grade: Day 2 from 1:15 - 3:15 p.m. (Starting Sept. 5)

5th Grade: Day 5 from 1:20 - 3:20 p.m. (Starting Sept. 11)

6th Grade: Day 1 from 1:15 - 3:15 p.m. (Starting Sept 13)

Coding Club

Are you interested in learning more about computers and coding?

Join Freedom 7's Coding Club!

Who: Students in grades 4-6

What: Instruction related to coding and careers in computer science. We use code.org, Scratch, and more advanced languages for advanced students.

When: Friday Mornings 8:00-8:35 starting 9/8/23

Where: Freedom 7 CFI

How: SIGN UP using the QR code



We are planning to have six students from each grade level, 4th, 5th, and 6th, in our club. If needed, a wait list will be created.

You will be notified when your child has been accepted and a permission slip will be sent home at that time. Please return the slip by Wednesday, September 6th.

Questions? Contact Mrs. Nardelli: nardelli.susanz@brevardschools.org

Do you know how to Code?

We are looking for parents to come in on Friday mornings (every week or even just once or twice a month) to help students with coding.

Meeting dates:

September 8, 15, 22, 29

October 6, 13, 20, 27

November 3

Reminder: All parent volunteers must be registered and fingerprinted through BPS.

If you would like to help,
please e-mail Mrs. Nardelli at
nardelli.susanz@brevardschools.org

Thank you!

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Dear Parent/Guardian of a Sixth Grade Student,

Sixth grade Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSS) for Social Studies teach the development of ancient civilizations. As a companion to the TCI Social Studies textbook, students will be using The Document Based Questioning (DBQ) Project materials to learn the standards. The DBQ Project materials align both to NGSSS for Social Studies and B.E.S.T ELA benchmarks.

The major purpose of the DBQ Project curriculum at the sixth-grade level is to help students improve critical thinking skills by examining documents from different perspectives and points of view. DBQ prepares students for the rigor required in high school Advanced Placement courses and other college preparatory courses.

The core principles of DBQ instruction are teaching students how to think, giving assignments that require students to think, acknowledging thinking is hard work, understanding critical thinking is for all students, and promoting the idea that thinking is clarified by students' writing.

The study of ancient civilizations leads to topics and discussions of decisions and actions that may be deemed controversial. As per Board Policy 2240 Controversial Issues, the Board will permit the introduction and proper educational use of controversial issues provided that their use in the instructional program:

- A. is related to the instructional goals of the course of study and the level of maturity of the students.
- B. does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view.
- C. encourages open-mindedness and is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry.

The Board recognizes that a course of study or certain instructional materials may contain content and/or activities that some parents find objectionable. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either the content or activities conflict with his/her religious beliefs or value system, the school will consider a written request for his/her child to be excused from a particular class for specified reasons. The student, however, will not be excused from participating in the course and will be provided alternate learning activities during times of such parent requested absences.

The DBQ Project Materials will be available for parents to preview in each elementary school. You are welcome to make an appointment with the school to review this curriculum. We encourage you to discuss these materials at home. Your support will help your child develop a healthy attitude about these important issues.

If you **DO NOT** wish to have your child participate in the curriculum, **you must notify the principal in writing** of your request.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Lott
Principal

Kathryn Lott, Principal
Mark J. Rendell, Ed.D., Superintendent
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Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is a progress monitoring system that is administered three times per year to track your student's progress in learning the Benchmarks of Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards throughout this school year. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will participate in the first administration (PM 1) of the **Grades 3-6** Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) ELA Reading and Mathematics assessments on the sessions of the following days:

- **Wednesday, September 6, 2023 - Reading**
- **Thursday, September 7, 2023- Math**

Please make an effort for your student to be present in school on these two important days of state-wide testing.

Your student's results from PM1 are for informational purposes only, and you will be provided with information about how to access the results after testing is completed.

FAST assessments are computer-adaptive tests taken on a computer or tablet. The questions get easier or more difficult depending on how the student responds, and each student will see different questions from a common item bank. Each test attempt (PM1, PM2, and PM3) will present 35–40 items that will cover the entire test “blueprint,” meaning students will encounter items representative of the standards within the subject or grade level. For more information on the test design, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>. If you or your student would like to interact with the online testing platform or review FAST ELA Reading and Mathematics sample items at home, sample test materials are available at <https://flfast.org/families.html>.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to access any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing **or** during breaks (e.g., restroom). If your student is found with an electronic device or is found using Bluetooth/wireless headphones/earbuds during testing, his or her test may be invalidated.
- **Calculator Policy**—For Grades 7–8 FAST Mathematics, approved handheld scientific calculators may be used. For Grade 6 FAST Mathematics, a handheld four-function calculator may be used.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**— All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment that reads: “I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated.” Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by clicking the box in the secure browser indicating they understand the testing rules.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**— The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they click the box to accept the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states that because the content of all statewide assessments is secure, students may not discuss or reveal details about the test content (including test items and passages) after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to social media sites. Please make sure your

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student understands this policy prior to testing and remind them that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, posting to social media, or sharing online. **While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**

- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Plan, or is an English Language Learner (ELL) or a recently exited ELL, please contact the school to discuss any testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Lisa Megown, Assistant Principal at Megown.lisa@brevardschools.org

For more information about the FAST program, please visit the portal at FLFAST.org.

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during this test administration.

Sincerely,

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Principal

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Estimados padres de familia/tutores:

La Evaluación del razonamiento estudiantil de la Florida *FAST* (*Florida Assessment of Student Thinking, FAST*) es un sistema que ayuda a monitorear el avance en la enseñanza y se administrará tres veces al año para observar el progreso de su estudiante en el aprendizaje de los indicadores de referencia de un razonamiento estudiantil de excelencia (*Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking, B.E.S.T.*) durante este curso escolar. El propósito de esta carta es informarle que su estudiante participará en la primera administración (*PM1*) del grado's 3-6 evaluación(es) *Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) ELA* de Lectura (*Reading*) Matemáticas (*and Mathematics*)] el

- **Wednesday, September 6, 2023 - Reading**
- **Thursday September 7, 2023- Math**

Los resultados del PM1 de su estudiante se utilizan solo para fines informativos y se le proporcionará información sobre cómo acceder a los resultados una vez completadas las pruebas.

Las evaluaciones FAST son pruebas adaptativas que se toman en una computadora o tableta. Las preguntas se vuelven más fáciles o difíciles en dependencia de cómo responda el alumno y cada alumno verá diferentes preguntas de un banco común de elementos. Cada intento de prueba (PM1, PM2 y PM3) presentará de 35 a 40 elementos que cubrirán todo el "plan de contenido" de la prueba, lo que significa que los estudiantes encontrarán elementos representativos de los indicadores dentro de la materia o nivel de grado. Para obtener más información sobre el diseño de la prueba, por favor, visite: <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>. Si usted o su estudiante desean interactuar con la plataforma de pruebas en línea o revisar los materiales y pruebas de práctica de *FAST ELA* de Lectura [y Matemáticas (*and Mathematics*)] en su hogar, los mismos están disponibles en <https://flfast.org/families.html>.

Por favor, revise las siguientes políticas con su estudiante antes de que tome la prueba:

- **Dispositivos electrónicos:** A los estudiantes no se les permite el acceso a ningún dispositivo electrónico, entre otros, los teléfonos celulares, los teléfonos y relojes inteligentes, en ningún momento durante la prueba o durante los descansos (por ejemplo, en los servicios/aseos). Si se encuentra a su estudiante con algún dispositivo electrónico o usando Bluetooth/auriculares inalámbricos/auriculares durante la prueba, su prueba puede quedar anulada.
- **Política para el uso de calculadoras:** Para la prueba *FAST* de Matemáticas de los grados 7–8, se proporcionarán calculadoras científicas portátiles aprobadas. Para la prueba *FAST* de Matemáticas del 6º grado, se proporcionará una calculadora portátil de cuatro funciones.
- **Aceptación de la política de exámenes:** Todas las pruebas incluyen un reconocimiento de las políticas de la prueba que declara: "Entiendo las reglas de la prueba que me acaban de leer. Si no sigo estas reglas, la puntuación de mi prueba puede quedar anulada". Antes de la prueba, los administradores de esta leen las reglas a los estudiantes, los cuales deben aceptar que comprenden dichas reglas haciendo clic en la casilla en el navegador seguro que indica que entienden las reglas de prueba.

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- **Divulgación del contenido de las pruebas una vez que hayan concluido:** La última sección de las reglas de la prueba se lee a los estudiantes antes de que firmen para aceptar que comprenden las reglas de la prueba, las cuales establecen que debido a que el contenido de todas las evaluaciones estatales es confidencial, los estudiantes no pueden dialogar ni revelar detalles sobre el contenido de la prueba (incluidos los elementos y pasajes de la prueba) al concluir la misma. Esto incluye cualquier tipo de comunicación electrónica, como mensajes de texto, correos electrónicos o publicaciones en sitios de redes sociales. Por favor, asegúrese de que su estudiante comprenda esta política antes de tomar la prueba y recuérdese que "dialogar" sobre el contenido de la prueba incluye cualquier tipo de comunicación electrónica como mensajes de texto, correos electrónicos, publicaciones en redes sociales o compartir en línea. **Si bien los estudiantes no pueden compartir información sobre el contenido confidencial de la prueba después de tomar la misma, esta política no pretende evitar que los estudiantes hablen sobre sus experiencias en la prueba con sus padres/familias.**
- **Examinarse de forma independiente:** Los estudiantes son responsables de realizar su propia prueba y de proteger sus respuestas de manera que otros no las vean. Si algún estudiante es sorprendido haciendo trampa durante la prueba, la prueba será anulada.
- **Adaptaciones para las pruebas—** Si su estudiante tiene un Plan de Educación Individual (Individual Education Plan, IEP), un Plan de la Sección 504, o es un Aprendiz del Idioma Inglés (English Language Learner, ELL) o un ELL recientemente egresado de dicho programa, por favor, comuníquese con la escuela para analizar las adaptaciones para las pruebas que se proporcionarán a su estudiante.

Si tiene alguna pregunta relacionada con la administración de esta prueba, puede comunicarse con [] en Lisa Megown, Assistant Principal at Megown.lisa@brevardschools.org
Para obtener más información sobre el programa FAST, por favor, visite el portal en FLFAST.org.

Gracias por apoyar a su estudiante y animarlo/a a dar lo mejor de sí mismo/a durante la administración de esta prueba.

Atentamente,

Kathryn Lott
Principal

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