

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK



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Burke County School Code: 120

Freedom High School Code: 318

ACT/SAT/PLAN SCHOOL CODE: 342745

Name _____

Homeroom Advisor _____

VISION

Freedom High School will challenge our students' strengths to prepare them for successful college and career paths and provide students the knowledge and skills to compete at a global level.

MISSION

Freedom High School provides students with opportunities to pursue their interests, develop their skills, and become productive citizens.

Purpose

The Purpose of Freedom High School is to prepare solid, productive graduates who are ready and prepared to contribute to their community through the 21st century and beyond.

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In compliance with federal law, Burke County Public Schools administers all educational programs, employment activities, and admissions without discrimination against any person on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

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## **Calendars and Bell Schedules**

### **2025-2026 FHS Bell Schedules**

#### **Patriot Pride/Daily Bell Schedule**

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| First Bell    | 7:50          |
| Warning Bell  | 7:55          |
| 1st Period    | 8:00 - 9:25   |
| Patriot Pride | 9:30 - 10:00  |
| 2nd period    | 10:05-11:30   |
| 3rd Period    | 11:35 - 1:25  |
| A lunch       | 11:30 - 11:55 |
| B lunch       | 12:00 - 12:25 |
| C lunch       | 12:30 - 12:55 |
| D lunch       | 1:00 - 1:25   |
| 4th Period    | 1:30 - 2:50   |

Patriot Pride will take place daily with Character Strong each Monday.

#### **Early Dismissal Schedule**

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Period | 8:00-8:40   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period | 8:45-9:25   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period | 9:30-10:10  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Period | 10:15-11:00 |

4<sup>th</sup> Period will dismiss at 11:00. Any student that wishes to eat in the café will eat then exit to buses for departure at 11:30.

#### **Two Hour Delay Schedule**

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Period | 10:00-10:55 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period | 11:00-11:55 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period | 12:00-1:50  |
| A Lunch                | 12:00-12:20 |
| B Lunch                | 12:25-12:50 |
| C Lunch                | 1:00-1:25   |
| D Lunch                | 1:25-1:50   |
| 4th Block              | 1:55-2:50   |

**Three Hour Delay Schedule**

|                        |             |             |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1st Period             | 11:00-11:35 |             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period | 11:40-1:35  |             |
| A lunch                |             | 11:40-12:05 |
| B lunch                |             | 12:10-12:35 |
| C lunch                |             | 12:40-1:05  |
| D lunch                |             | 1:10-1:35   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period | 1:40-2:10   |             |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Period | 2:15-2:50   |             |

**Afternoon Assembly Schedule**

|                        |             |             |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Period | 8:00-9:20   |             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period | 9:25-10:45  |             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period | 10:50-12:45 |             |
| A lunch                |             | 10:50-11:15 |
| B lunch                |             | 11:20-11:45 |
| C lunch                |             | 11:50-12:15 |
| D lunch                |             | 12:20-12:45 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Period | 12:50-2:15  |             |

**Without Patriot Pride/Advisement**

|                        |               |         |              |
|------------------------|---------------|---------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Period | 8:00-9:30     |         |              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period | 9:35-11:10    |         |              |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period | 11:15-1:15    |         |              |
| A lunch                | 11:15-11:40   | B lunch | 11:45-12:10  |
| C lunch                | 12:15 - 12:40 | D lunch | 12:45 - 1:15 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Period | 1:20-2:50     |         |              |

The 2025-2026 Burke County Schools Calendar may be accessed Via The Burke County Web Site-  
[www.Burke.k12.nc.us](http://www.Burke.k12.nc.us)

\*\* The school building does not open for students until 7:30 a.m., except for the gym. Students must exit the main building by 3:00 p.m. unless working directly with a faculty member or participating in a school-sponsored activity.

### **Academic & Grading Information**

| <b>Subject</b>                | <b>Number of Credits Required</b>                                                                              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| English                       | 4 Credits                                                                                                      |
| Mathematics                   | 4 Credits NC Math I, II, III and a fourth math course aligned with the student's post high school plans.       |
| Science                       | 3 Credits Biology, Earth/Environmental, and a Physical Science                                                 |
| Social Studies                | 4 Credits World History, American History: The Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics and Personal Finance |
| Health and Physical Education | 1 Credit<br>Successful completion of CPR instruction                                                           |
| Career and Technical          | 1 Credit                                                                                                       |
| Fine Arts                     | 1 Credit                                                                                                       |
| Other Electives               | 10 Credits Class of 2028 and beyond                                                                            |
| Total                         | 28 Credits                                                                                                     |

**\*NC HB 259 now allows for an Accelerated Pathway for Early Graduation in Three Years. Please Contact your principal for further information.**

### **PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS**

- A.** To become a sophomore a student must have a total of 6 units in grade 9 and TWO TERMS OF RESIDENCY IN HIGH SCHOOL.
- B.** To become a junior a student must have a total of 13 units in grades 9 and 10 combined AND FOUR TERMS OF RESIDENCY IN HIGH SCHOOL.
- C.** To become a senior, a student must have a total of 20 units in grades 9, 10, and 11 combined AND SIX TERMS OF RESIDENCY IN HIGH SCHOOL.

## **Athletic Requirements**

**ALL** student-athletes are required to meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. The student must pass 75% of the course work of the previous semester; on the 4 x 4 block scheduling in high school, this would mean passing at least 3 out of 4 classes.
2. Be in attendance at least 85% of the preceding semester.
3. Sign a consent form for Random Drug Test.
4. Be a full-time student in Burke County Public Schools or dually enrolled in Burke County Public Schools at least half-time.
5. Students must be registered for at least 3 classes per semester to participate in athletics.

**NCAA requirements for students interested in athletics on the college level: Academic-Eligibility Requirements**

<https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2013/12/11/student-athlete-eligibility.aspx>

### **Division I**

If you want to participate in athletics or receive an athletics scholarship, you must:

- Graduate from high school;
  - Complete these 16 core courses:
    - 4 years of English
    - 3 years of math (Algebra I/Math I or higher)
    - 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by your high school)
    - 1 extra year of English, math, or natural or physical science
    - 2 years of social science
    - 4 years of extra core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy);
  - 10 core courses completed before the 7<sup>th</sup> semester
  - Earn a minimum required 2.4 grade-point average in your core courses;
- and
- Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your core-course grade-point average and test score sliding scale (for example, a 2.400 core-course grade-point average needs an 860 SAT or 71 ACT sum score).

### **Requirement to graduate with your high school class (with cohort)**

You must complete the 16 core-course requirements in eight semesters, which begins when you initially started high school with your ninth-grade class.

### **Division II**

If you enroll in a Division II college, and want to participate in athletics or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year, you must:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete these 16 core courses:
  - 3 years of English
  - 2 years of math (Algebra I/Math I or higher)
  - 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by your high school)

- 3 additional years of English, math, or natural or physical science
- 2 years of social science
- 4 years of additional core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy); • Earn a 2.200 grade-point average or better in your core courses; and
- Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your core-course grade-point average and test score sliding scale.

### **Division III**

Division III schools only offer academic scholarships.

## **Attendance Policy- Burke County High Schools- Board Policy 4400**

I. Attendance is an essential element in the learning process. The primary responsibility of school attendance rests with students and parents. Because students daily receive 90 minutes of instruction in each class, good attendance is crucial. **Teachers will make reasonable efforts to provide appropriate opportunities for students to make-up for missed work.**

***Only four hand written notes per semester are permitted. Students must submit notes (doctor, parent, etc.) within five school days of his/her return to school. Students must submit Doctor's notes after four handwritten notes.***

### **II. Exemption from Exams**

Students are **not** exempt from End-of-Course, NC final, and VOCAT exams. A student may be exempt from a teacher made exam if

A student may be exempt from an exam in any course where a state-mandated End-of-Course Test, North Carolina Final Exam, or Vocational Competency Exam is not required if:

1. The student has an "A" average in the course and no more than three (3) unexcused absences.
2. The student has a "B" average in the course and has no more than two (2)

Unexcused absences.

3. The student has a "C" average in the course and has no more than one (1)

Unexcused absence.

4. A student with 5 or more unexcused tardies for a class during the semester is NOT exempt from that class exam.

**\*\* Any student has the option to take any exam from which the student is exempt.**

**Students who have ISS or OSS are not eligible for exam exemption.**

*Students in 11th or 12th grade are allowed one College Day visit per school year, which is exam exempt. Western Piedmont students enrolled at Western Piedmont Community College will have an excused absence for taking an exam at WPCC. Students who are required to take an off campus exam will have the absence coded as an educational opportunity.*

### **Attendance Requirements-Relating To Registration**

To meet attendance requirements of the Burke County Board of Education for graduation from high school, students must register for eight (8) courses per year: four (4) courses per semester. Students can earn a maximum of 12 credits per year with principal approval.

Students must earn two credits each semester to meet **residency requirements**. A student must be enrolled in high school courses for eight semesters (4 years). The principal may waive up to one semester of residency for a student if the student has completed 22 credits and meets all local and state requirements. This recommendation must be sent to the superintendent. Upon the superintendent's recommendation and School Board approval, a student may waive up to one year of residency if a student has completed 22 credits and meets all local and state requirements.

### **EARLY DISMISSAL AND PARTIAL PERIOD/DAY ATTENDANCE**

A. For a student to receive an early dismissal, a parent must come into the office and check the student out. All persons must be listed in Infinite Campus as being able to check a student out.

B. No student will be permitted to leave class to get an early dismissal.

C. Students returning to school from an early dismissal must check in at the office and present their pass to the teacher upon entering class.

D. Students must be in attendance until 11:40 a.m. in order to be counted present for the school day unless they are out of school due to a school-related activity.

E. Students must be in attendance for 45 minutes of a class period in order to be counted as present for the class unless they are out of class due to a school-related activity.

F. Once a student has arrived on school property during the school day, whether or not the instructional time has begun, that student becomes the responsibility of the school. Any student who comes on campus must have special permission from an administrator or parental permission before leaving.

NOTE: Absences due to early dismissals will be coded lawful or unlawful (refer to attendance policy). Job applications, working on cars, trading cars, insurance appointments, and other reasons of this nature are NOT considered emergencies.

***In order for a student to be released, a note must be turned in to the front office by 8:00 am. If the student does not have a note, a parent, or someone on the contact list must come and check out the student, this includes student drivers.***

**A STUDENT MUST HAVE A PROPER CHECKOUT SLIP FROM THE OFFICE BEFORE LEAVING. IF RETURNING TO SCHOOL, THE STUDENT MUST CHECK IN AT THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE.**

**Students should try to check out of school only between classes if possible.**

### **EMERGENCY CHECKOUTS**

In the event of an emergency, which requires the student to leave school during the school day, the student should follow these procedures: 1. Report to the office, and explain the emergency situation. 2. The office will contact parents by phone to obtain permission to excuse the student. 3. No student will be allowed to checkout without proper approval from the administration. The checkout procedure must be followed in order to comply with school board policy and legal responsibilities. These steps are not intended as mistrust of students but rather as a safety precaution and communication line to parents. For example, it

would be unwise for a student to check out sick, leave school, need medical attention, and no one is aware of the situation. Failure to comply with checkout procedures will be dealt with as a discipline issue.

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work is the responsibility of the student. Each case will be considered on an individual basis giving unusual circumstances due consideration. The student has a THREE-day time limit upon his/her return to school to arrange with the teacher to obtain missed assignments and schedule missed tests. Certain assignments, tests, projects, papers, etc. have due dates announced well in advance.

If a student is absent on a day when such a project/paper/assignment is due or on which a test or exam is scheduled, the student will be required to turn in the work or make up the test/exam on the first day back from absence.

### **TARDY POLICY**

Students will be counted as tardy if they are not inside the classroom when the tardy bell sounds. Accumulation of Tardies is done on a period-by-period basis. A student may be late (tardy) to each class one time and will technically have 4 accumulated tardies, but disciplinary action begins with the 2<sup>nd</sup> tardy to the same class. The actions specified below are for tardies to any single class or to Patriot Pride or advisement. **Students who are not in 1st period or who arrive at school after 8:10 AM must receive a tardy note from the office and be admitted to class.**

#### **Tardy Protocol-Reset Every Nine Weeks**

**1st Tardy-** Warning from the classroom teacher. Document in IC/EH as a minor.

**2nd Tardy-** Teacher notifies parents with personal contact (phone call or face-to-face conference; email is not acceptable). Document in IC/EH as a minor.

**3rd Tardy-** An additional personal parent notification shall be made by the teacher. Parents shall be made aware of subsequent consequences for 4th and 5th tardy. Document in IC/EH as a minor.

**4th Tardy-** Administrative Referral – 30 minutes of before or after school detention in the office (extracurriculars do not preclude students from fulfilling the detention time); Students will be notified of their detention via school email with at least 24 hours notice. Administrative conference is required. Document in IC/EH.

**5th Tardy-** Administrative Referral – Students accumulating five or more tardies will not be eligible for exam exemption for teacher-made finals in the period in which the tardies are accumulated. A documented parent conference is required and shall include the parent, administrator, and school counselor. The team should review an attendance contract that includes the elimination of tardies to class.

**\*\*Subsequent Tardies** will result in substantial additional consequences that include, but are not limited to revocation of parking privileges for the school year, loss of extracurricular privileges, Saturday school, transfer revocation, and supervised transitions between classes.

## **HALL PASSES**

Students are not allowed to leave class during the first and last ten minutes of instructional time of any class period. A student **MUST** have a **DIGITAL** hall pass any time that he/she leaves a class or activity during class time.

## **Burke Middle College**

Burke Middle College (BMC) is a two-year educational program operated by Burke County Public Schools and Western Piedmont Community College (WPCC). Through this program, students complete their 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade years of high school on the campus of WPCC while also working toward an associate degree. All college courses completed during their enrollment in BMC are completely tuition-free. Students may complete their entire community college degree, by the time they graduate from high school, thereby giving them a two-year head start on achieving their goals.

### **The Burke Middle College Application Process**

Students are invited to discuss the middle college program with staff at Burke Middle College. Parents and students determine if Burke Middle College is the appropriate academic setting. Students have to submit an application (co-signed by the parents) and two recommendations. Students must pass the reading and writing portion of the college placement test. Then students and parents meet with the principal and review team for an interview. Applications may be obtained on the Burke Middle College website or from the high school counselor. Applications are submitted during the student's 10th-grade year. [Prerequisites are Biology and Math II]

## **College and Career Ready**

It's not unusual for students to change their minds about a major decision that will affect the rest of their lives. Some students know early what they want to do after high school. Others may not make that decision until much later. That's why the courses students take in high school matter. High school is their best chance to prepare for whatever they decide to do as adults. The College and Career Ready Core was developed to provide students with a strong academic foundation so they will have as many options as possible after graduation from high school. By taking a balanced schedule of academic courses and electives, students will be ready for work and/or college.

## **Career and College Promise/College Course Credits**

Career and College Promise offers North Carolina high school students a clear path to success in college or in a career. This tuition-waived program is available to all students who maintain a 2.8 GPA and meet program eligibility requirements. Through a partnership of the Department of Public Instruction, the N.C. Community College System, the University of North Carolina system and many independent colleges and universities, North Carolina is helping eligible high school students to begin earning college credit at a community college campus. The three pathways include:

1. College Transfer Pathways (CTP) which requires the completion of at least 24-43 semester hours of transfer courses including English and Mathematics.

2. Career and Technical Education Pathways (CTE) which leads to a certificate or diploma aligned with a high school career cluster.
3. Cooperative Innovative High School Programs (CIHSP) are located on college campuses (unless a waiver was provided) and provide opportunities for students to complete an associate degree program or earn up to two years of college credit within five years. An example includes Middle College High Schools.

College credits will be computed in the high school grade point average and class rank and will be displayed on the high school transcript. Many of the community college courses provide honors weight (those that articulate to the university level). All other community college courses receive no weight. (All college courses must be pre-approved by the principal/designee.) Students must be registered for at least two high school courses while taking classes at colleges. All college courses count one high school credit. To maintain eligibility in the Career & College Promise program, students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in college coursework and continue progress toward high school graduation.

### **Credit by Demonstrated Mastery**

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery is the process by which LEAs shall, based upon a body of evidence, award a student credit in a particular course without requiring the student to complete classroom instruction for a certain amount of seat time. Students interested in challenging a course for credit should see the school counselor for information.

### **GRADING PROCEDURES**

1. Numeric grades are used for all FINAL grade reports and transcripts. Numeric grades will be used for Progress Reports AND nine-week Report cards.
  - A. SUPERIOR: The grade "A" is earned by students who achieve a numerical average between 90 and 100.
  - B. ABOVE AVERAGE: The grade "B" is earned by students who achieve a numerical average between 89 and 80.
  - C. AVERAGE: The grade "C" is earned by students who achieve a numerical average between 79 and 70.
  - D. BELOW AVERAGE: The grade "D" is earned by students who achieve a numerical average between 69 and 60.
  - E. FAILURE: The grade "F" is earned by students whose numeric average is below 59.

### **Failing Grades**

The freshman class of 2025-2026 and subsequent classes may repeat a failed class (F) and replace that failing grade (F) if the class is passed. Failing grades may be removed from a student's transcript or excluded from computing a student's grade-point average by repeating and passing the courses failed. The new course grade will appear on the student's transcript. Students have the option of making up failed courses during the school year or by attending summer school or through credit recovery in APEX, if eligible.

### Incompletes:

Incomplete grades must be made up within three weeks of the end of each semester. Incomplete grades not made up by that time will become "F's". Following an absence from school, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher within three days concerning make-up work.

### CLASS RANK PROCEDURE

Freedom High School maintains a 4.0, unweighted, GPA/Class Rank and a weighted GPA/Class Rank to encourage students to take classes that can better prepare them for college and the demands of technology in the workplace. The following guidelines will govern class rank/GPA calculation and use:

1. Course grades earned in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 will be used in the calculation of grade point averages.
2. Grade point averages will be calculated at the end of each semester and can be found on the student transcript.
3. ***The grade point average calculated through the fourth nine weeks grading period of the second semester will be used to determine Honor Graduates. Students whose grade point average drops below a 4.0 during the fourth nine weeks may lose their honor graduate status; Junior Marshalls and Ushers through the third nine weeks.***

4. The following process will be used to calculate grade point averages:

A. An unweighted (4.0) and weighted G.P.A./class rank system will be maintained by the official state database. The transcript will have both the weighted and unweighted GPA and the class rank will be calculated using the weighted GPA. The unweighted (4.0) system will be used for all school records and school honors recognition. The weighted system will be maintained in order to select honor graduates, junior marshalls, and to provide colleges with this information for admission and determination of scholarships.

5. The guidance codes and the weighting for each code will be as follows:

College/University Preparatory: To prepare students for college entrance and the type of disciplined study required to succeed in the post-secondary academic setting.

A = 4; B = 3; C = 2; D = 1; F = 0

**Advanced Academic/Pre-AP/Honors/STEAM/CCP: To require disciplined study of students who desire an academic challenge.**

The following scales apply to courses for all students.

|              |                               |                                         |                           |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Letter Grade | (Unweighted) Standard Courses | (Weighted) AP, IB, and College Courses* | (Weighted) Honors Courses |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|

|   |   |   |     |
|---|---|---|-----|
| A | 4 | 5 | 4.5 |
| B | 3 | 4 | 3.5 |
| C | 2 | 3 | 2.5 |
| D | 1 | 2 | 1.5 |
| F | 0 | 0 | 0   |

\* Includes dual enrollment and NC Community College transfer courses per the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement .

***\*The BCPS High School Course Offerings can be found on the high school or county website listed below:***

### **[BCPS High School Course Offerings](#)**

#### **Summer School**

Summer school information can be found on the BCPS and high school website near the end of each school year. School counselors will also be a good source of information.

#### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Refer to the Burke County Public Schools High School Course Offerings for detailed information about graduation requirements and diploma programs.

#### **Graduation Policies**

***No students may participate in graduation ceremonies unless they have earned a minimum of 22 credit requirements, as established by the Burke County Board of Education and the State of North Carolina at the time of graduation exercises.*** It is the intent and purpose of Freedom High School that only students that qualify to receive diplomas be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremonies. In order to participate in the graduation exercise the student must attend all announced practices and Senior Awards Ceremony.

The administration may adopt other appropriate and reasonable restrictions, including dress restrictions, as conditions for participation in graduation ceremonies provided that such restrictions meet the following criteria:

- A.** The restriction is properly and openly publicized or otherwise made known to pupils and parents.
- B.** Where possible and practical procedures shall include ample warning to parents and students of possible loss of privilege.

This policy is intended to preserve the dignity and prestige of the graduation ceremonies as they are designed to honor significant and culminating student achievement.

- C.** All debts to the school must be paid before final exams in order to participate in the graduation ceremonies.

**D.** The actual diploma certificate is the property of Freedom High School and is awarded, as a gift, to students who meet all graduation requirements and who conduct themselves appropriately during the actual Graduation Ceremony.

Students who violate stated or implied rules of decorum during the actual graduation ceremony will not receive their diplomas on graduation day. Any students whose diplomas are held for failure to abide by stated rules of behavior at the graduation ceremony will have to schedule an appointment with the principal to request release of the diploma. It is the intent of Freedom High School as well as the desire of the Burke County Board of Education that the Graduation Ceremony be a solemn event that is not marred by any student's desire to bring attention to himself/herself.

#### **Honor Graduates**

Honor Graduates will be determined by using the weighted grade point system. Grades received during the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and through the last nine weeks grading period (N4) of the senior year will be used to determine Honor Graduates. The minimum GPA for Honor Graduates will be 4.0 on the weighted scale.

#### **Graduation Speakers**

Ten students in the senior class with the highest grade point averages on the weighted scale at the end of the fourth nine weeks will be offered the opportunity to participate in the graduation program. Students must attend all graduation practices to participate in the graduation ceremony.

#### **Senior Fees**

Students are charged a one time fee of \$15.00 to cover the costs incurred from the awards program, graduation, Senior class party, and other expenses associated with Seniors. Students may pay this fee beginning their Junior year. The Senior fee can be paid prior to attending prom as a Junior, purchasing a parking sticker as a Senior, and/or participating in any extracurricular activities as a Senior.

#### **Junior Marshals and Junior Ushers**

Junior Marshals and Junior Ushers will be determined by using the weighted grade point system. Grades received during the ninth, tenth, and through the third nine weeks grading (N3) period of the junior year will be used to determine junior marshals (1-10) and junior ushers(11-20). Junior Marshals will be the top ten students of their class, and Junior Ushers will be numbers eleven through twenty of their class.

#### **PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC AWARDS**

Presidential Academic Awards recognize students who have achieved academic excellence. To become a Presidential Academic Award recipient,

- Student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted)
- Score at least in the 85 percentile(620 verbal and/or 630 Math) or higher for college bound seniors on the SAT.
- Score at least 28+ on the ACT

### **North Carolina Academic Scholars**

The State Board of Education has determined that students with an overall four-year unweighted GPA of 3.5 and have met the requirements for NC Academics Scholar Program can be identified as North Carolina Scholars. For more information on this program, see your counselor.

### **EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND EFFORT**

It is the expectation of the faculty and staff of Freedom High School that all students will make a good faith effort to do what is asked of them in all classes. We further accept that if the student does make this good faith effort and still fails to make acceptable progress in a class, then the fault does not lie with the student, and the teacher and the school must rethink the approach that has been used with the student and find other means to enable that student to experience success. Certain expectations are part of making a “good faith effort” and these are:

1. Coming to class on time every day and being prepared with materials and with any assignments that the teacher has said are to be completed for the specific class.
2. Staying awake and alert in class and participating in discussions, group activities, or other instructional activities. If the student is not able to stay awake, this pattern of behavior can be seen as a disciplinary matter and result in further consequences.
3. Dressing out and participating in physical education. Students who fail to dress out for PE will lose points on their grade and will be made to walk laps while the other students participate in the planned activities.

### **Student Transcripts**

Transcripts will be free for students needing transcripts for college applications or applying for scholarships. Please see your counselor if you need a copy of your transcript. Please allow 24 hours advance notice to provide an official transcript.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

In order to maintain the integrity of the teaching and learning process, as well as to validate all grades received by students, Freedom High School requires that students abide by the following academic guidelines:

1. Students may not work together on any projects unless specifically given approval by the teacher.
2. Students may not copy another student's work and submit it as their own. Burke County Public Schools follows the NCDPI Generative AI Recommendations and Considerations for PK - 13 schools.

3. Students may not use any aid on a test or exam without the specific approval of the teacher.
4. Students are not to **give** other students aid or assistance - for example, a student who has taken a test in an earlier class or on a previous day is NOT to give information about that test to a student who has yet to take the test.
5. When students use information from a source other than their textbook or teacher lecture notes to complete a project or a paper, the source(s) must be cited in accordance with the acceptable format as specified by the teacher.
6. Parents are not to complete projects assigned to students. A teacher may allow parents to assist students in some particular fashion, but the project is designed to help the teacher determine what the **student** knows or can do.

**Students who fail to abide by these guidelines will receive a grade of zero for the work in question and may face disciplinary action as well. This applies to students who provide unauthorized assistance as well as to students who seek or receive unauthorized assistance.**

## **SCHOOL COUNSELING GRADES 9-12**

### **Counselor Assignments**

**Mrs. Holly Shumate** Alphabet A, B, C, X, Y, Z

**Mrs. Dawn Dellinger** Alphabet D, E, F, G, H, I, J

**Ms. Alison Snipes** Alphabet K, L, M, N, O, P, Q

**Ms. Lennetta Williams** Alphabet R, S, T, U, V, W

Counselors are available to assist students as they deal with problems relating to school, family, friends, teachers, careers, college or other areas of concern. Students may express their concerns in a safe, confidential, and non-judgmental environment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please see your counselor. They are here to help you examine your interests, aptitudes, and job preferences and can help develop a program of study to prepare you for college and careers. Information about high school graduation, school credits, registration, college admissions, or financial aid for college is available in the guidance office.

## **PROCEDURES FOR SEEING YOUR COUNSELOR OR OTHER SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

Prior arrangements and approval must be made with your teacher when missing class time for counseling sessions. "Drop-in" visits by students with a counselor will not be accepted as an excuse for tardies to or absences from class. Counselors can initiate student contact or students may email their counselors to schedule appointments. If the situation is such that a student needs to see a counselor immediately, the teacher will call the counselor. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the school counselor. Conflict Resolution should be utilized when needed. Administrators, teachers, and students may fill out referrals.

### **Schedule Changes**

The Freedom High School master schedule and course offerings are built on student requests, and there is limited overall flexibility available to accommodate changes. Counselors will be available to process requests for changes before the school year begins. Students will be notified of the specific dates during the summer for class changes. ***FHS will process change requests for the following reasons only:***

1. Incomplete schedule/computer error
2. Graduation requirement for seniors
3. Failure of a pre-requisite course
4. Balance academic courses

### **Infinite Campus Parent Portal**

Burke County Public Schools provide access to a web-based portal that allows parents to view their student's schedule, classroom assignments, grades, attendance, demographic data, school bulletin, and more. This product is available to parents. In order to gain access to this important tool, please see the Data Manager in the main office. Each parent will sign an acceptable use policy as well as receive log-on information.

[Parent Portal Application](#)

[Spanish Parent Portal Application](#)

### **EXAM POLICY**

1. To earn credit, a student must complete an assessment consisting of either an End-of-Course Test or North Carolina Final Exam administered according to guidelines of North Carolina Annual Testing Program, a vocational competency test (VoCATS) or, in courses with no mandated test, a teacher-prepared cumulative final examination.
2. Exams can only be made up or taken early in certain cases where approved by the Principal.
3. A student must take the End-of-Course test or VOCATS test in any course requiring one in order to get credit for the course. The End of Course test and VOCATS test will count as the final exam. The grade earned on the End-of-Course test will be made part of the student's permanent record.
4. **All AP students are required to take all AP exams, no exceptions.**
5. CTE completers are required to take the Workkeys Assessment.
6. Final assessments will count 20 percent of the final grade in the course.
7. Students may not take exams earlier than the scheduled exam period.
8. An exam schedule will be made available to students at the earliest possible date.
9. Exam exemptions are only allowed for teacher-prepared final exams, when eligibility is met.

### **EXEMPTION FROM EXAMS**

A student may be exempt from an exam in any course where a state-mandated End-of-Course Test, North Carolina Final Exam, or Vocational Competency Exam is not required if

1. The student has an “A” average in the course and no more than three (3) unexcused absences.

2. The student has a “B” average in the course and has no more than two (2)

Unexcused absences.

3. The student has a “C” average in the course and has no more than one (1)

Unexcused absence.

4. A student with 5 or more unexcused tardies for a class during the semester is NOT exempt from that class exam.

\*\* Any student has the option to take any exam from which the student is exempt.

Students who have ISS or OSS are not eligible for exam exemption.

### **Tardy Policy -R**

### **Driver Education Information**

Students are invited (through their school email) to a driver education class based on their birthdate.

A few weeks before their 15th birthday, students need to begin checking their Burke County Public Schools email for information about an upcoming driver education class.

The Burke County Board of Education has approved a \$65 fee for Driver Education. The fee is non-refundable and non-transferrable to any school outside of Burke County. Students will pay this fee unless they are approved for a reduced-price waiver. Waivers may be picked up from the bookkeeper at the high schools. Students must PREPAY the \$65 driver education fee once they are emailed information about joining a class.

### **Drivers Education Information** **Drivers Ed Frequently Asked Questions**

A student must have a Driving Eligibility Certificate in order to receive a North Carolina driver's permit or license. This certificate will be issued upon completion of the Driver's Education Course and with evidence of a student's **adequate academic progress**. The Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will not issue a driver's permit or license without a Driving Eligibility Certificate. Driving eligibility and driver's license are a function of the NC Division of Motor Vehicles and not Burke County Public Schools. Questions should be directed to the Driver's Education Coordinator, Tammy McNabb (828) 502-0984.

***ADEQUATE ACADEMIC PROGRESS means that students must pass 3 out of 4 courses or 70% of courses each semester. ADEQUATE ACADEMIC PROGRESS is evaluated at the end of each semester. Students who do not meet this criterion or who drop out of school will be reported to the DMV and will have their permits or licenses revoked.***

### **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR**

In the event of a cardiac emergency, there are three AED units on campus. The locations are placed strategically throughout the building or with predetermined individuals: School nurse, Athletic Trainer, Athletic Training Room, Aux Gym, Front Office, and bottom level of the Two Story.

### **BCPS Student Code of Conduct**

#### **CELL PHONES and other ELECTRONIC DEVICES TO INCLUDE ETC, BCPS Board Policy #4318**

These items will be allowed before/after school, during class changes and lunch only. **Any students found taking inappropriate pictures or videos with a cell phone or other device will receive a minimum of 3 days OSS.** Since the above items are prohibited at school, neither school officials nor the School Resource Officer will try to recover lost or missing items. **No external speaker systems can be used on campus.** A student's device may be searched by a school administrator if the school official has reason to believe the search will provide evidence the student is or has violated the law, school board policy, the student code of conduct or a school rule. Searches will be carried out in a manner consistent with school board policy.

Administrators may authorize individual students to use wireless communication devices for personal purposes when there is a reasonable need for such communication. Teachers and administrators may authorize individual students to use the devices for instructional purposes, provided that they supervise the students during such use and a clear instructional purpose is identified. At all other times, devices should be kept in a designated area of the classroom.

School employees shall immediately confiscate any wireless communication devices that are on, used, displayed or visible in violation of this policy. Absent compelling and unusual circumstances, confiscated wireless communication devices will be returned only to the student's parents. The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy shall be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies.

#### **School Consequences for all students are as follows:**

**First Offense:** The electronic device shall be confiscated by the teacher. Notification shall be sent to the parent by the teacher. Parents may pick it up at the end of the school day from the teacher.

**Second Offense:** The electronic device shall be confiscated from the student and held in the office for parent pick up. The administration shall conference with the parent and student about appropriate use of devices and expectations of school procedures.

**Third Offense(s):** The electronic device shall be confiscated from the student and held in the office for parent pick up. The administration shall conference with the parent and student about how repeated disregard for this procedure will lead to other discipline as appropriate, which may include in-school and out-of-school suspension (i.e. insubordination, disrespect, inappropriate use of technology). The student will no longer be allowed to bring an electronic device to school except as approved by a principal.

**Subsequent offense(s):** The electronic device shall be confiscated, and the parent shall be notified by an administrator. The parent may pick up the electronic device from the school office, and the student may receive additional days of in- school or out-of-school suspension as deemed appropriate by school administration.

## **BCPS Student Code of Conduct**

### **DISCIPLINE HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Dress Code**

The items below are some of the main points of the Dress Code and aren't intended to represent the entire document. The entire Student Code of Conduct can be found on the BCPS web page. Policy [4300R](#).

- Female Dress: No exposed cleavage (tops may not plunge lower than 3 inches from the collarbone), no exposed undergarments or undergarment straps, minimum of 3 fingers worth of clothing on shoulders, no tops that dovetail inward in the back and expose the girl's back, no fishnet or see-through garments worn over other inappropriate garments, no leggings or tights unless a garment within the dress code length is worn over them, no shorts, skirts, or dresses that are mid thigh or shorter..
- Male Dress: No sagging or slacking pants, no garments w/ alcohol, tobacco, drugs, racist images/words, or obscenity or weapons.
- Hats allowed - Teacher Discretion in the classroom
- Face masks/coverings: No masks w/ alcohol, tobacco, drugs, racist images/words, offensive language/images or obscenity.
- Hoodies are not allowed to cover your head
- No Bandanas on the head
- Flags are not considered an article of clothing and should not be worn
- No blankets
- Students are not to be in any unauthorized areas nor are they allowed to "hangout" in the restrooms
- Cell phone policy - see updated cell phone policy above.
- Food and Drinks are prohibited from the classroom unless approved by the classroom teacher. Students are allowed to have a bottle of water.

#### **Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying**

Students shall not bully or intimidate other students. Bullying is defined as: purposeful, repetitive actions by an individual with the intent to inflict physical and/or emotional harm. These actions can be direct bullying such as but not limited to hitting, punching, shoving, kicking, etc. or indirect bullying such as but not limited to verbal threats, embarrassing comments videos or pictures, ranking, isolating, ignoring or cyber-bullying such as but not limited to published email, text, and web page hurtful, degrading, or embarrassing comments, pictures, or videos, etc. (Burke County Policy 4021 – Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying and 4015 – Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Complaint Procedures).

- A. First Offense: Up to five (5) days out-of-school suspension and conference with parent/guardian. Cases of severe harassment and /or bullying may be subject to a long term suspension or expulsion.

- B. Second Offense: Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension and conference with parent/guardian. Cases of severe harassment and /or bullying may be subject to a long term suspension or expulsion.
- C. Third Offense: Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension and cases of severe harassment and /or bullying may be subject to a long term suspension or expulsion.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL BUS PASSENGERS**

1. **Taking a seat.** When students enter the school bus, they should take a seat quickly and remain seated. Students should refrain from moving around in the bus when it is in motion.
2. **Keeping Limbs inside.** Students must keep head, arms, and feet inside the bus at all times.
3. **Throwing objects, shouting, and waving is not permitted.** Objects should never be thrown in the bus or out the windows. Students should not shout and wave to pedestrians or occupants of other vehicles from the bus windows.
4. **Keeping the Aisle Clear.** Students should never pile books, musical instruments, lunch boxes, or other objects in the bus aisle. If personal belongings are carried, they should be kept on the lap or put under the seat. Arms and legs must be kept out of the aisle when possible.
5. **Inappropriate language, tobacco use (vapes, jules, e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, etc).** Students must never use profane and inappropriate language, drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages while riding a bus.
6. **Horseplaying.** Horseplaying or scuffling on the school bus is not allowed.
7. **Care of the Bus.** Students must never mar or deface the bus in any way.
8. **Emergency Door.** Students must never tamper with the emergency door or any part of the bus. An open emergency door is very dangerous while the bus is in motion.
9. **Cameras.** Students must never tamper with any camera.
10. **Extension of School Day.** Time spent on a bus is an extension of the school day; therefore, students fall under all school rules while on a bus.
11. **Bus Notes.** Students must have a note signed by an administrator to ride a bus other than their regular bus.
12. **Riding Bus.** RIDING A SCHOOL BUS IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT.

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR BUS VIOLATIONS:**

1st Offense Warning and/or bus Suspension.

2nd Offense.....up to 5 Day Bus Riding Suspension.

3rd Offense.....up to 10 Day Bus Riding Suspension.

4th Offense Bus Riding Suspension For The Remainder Of The School Year

### **CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE Burke County BOE Policy #4300-R**

High school students should be mature enough to understand the importance of rules and regulations and why they are needed. The basic rule that we must all follow is the rule of good citizenship: honesty, respect for self and others, practicing the principles of good sportsmanship and conduct, conducting oneself in a manner befitting the dignity of a human and the dignity of the school.

**Some serious violations of school rules that result in immediate suspension ranging from 1 day to suspension for the remainder of the term are: (1) Possession, use, or sale of any alcoholic beverage, narcotic, without the authorization of a medical prescription, or tobacco use; (2) Stealing; (3) Possession or use of fireworks; (4) Possession or use of weapons (including knives); (5) Fighting; (6) Tampering with fire-alarm systems; (7) Insubordination (refusing to give your name to a school official, refusing to accompany school official to the office, refusing to follow established procedures of the classroom, school, county); (8) Vandalism; defacing or destruction of school property.**

**Students are subject to disciplinary action for gathering and encouraging fighting or physical violence.**

Other violations that may result in in-school suspension, and out-of-school suspension are listed here also.

(1) Excessive tardies (2) Class cuts (3) Class disturbances (4) Disruptive Behavior on school grounds (5) Profanity (6) Forged notes (7) Leaving school without permission (8) Gambling (9) Parking and driving violations (10) Bus discipline problems (11) Insubordination (12) Cutting assembly or misbehaving at assembly (13) Dress code violations and (14) Classroom Disruptions.

### **CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS**

1. Minor Violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in disciplinary measures or responses up to and including short-term suspension. Further information regarding the procedures for short-term suspensions is provided in policy 4351, Short-Term Suspension. Other disciplinary measures or responses may include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Parental involvement, such as conferences; b. Isolation or time-out for short periods of time; c. Behavior Contracts d. Instruction in conflict resolution and anger management; e. Peer mediation; f. Individual or small group sessions with the school counselor; g. Academic intervention; h. In-school suspension; i. Detention before and/or after school or on Saturday; j. Community service; k. Exclusion from graduation ceremonies; l. Exclusion from extracurricular activities; m. Suspension from bus privileges; and n.

Placement in an alternative school.

2. Serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in any of the consequences that may be imposed for minor violations. In addition, serious violations that threaten to substantially disrupt the educational environment may result in long-term suspension, and serious violations that threaten the safety of students, school employees or school visitors may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. Certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices may result in a 365-day suspension. Further information regarding the standards and procedures for long-term suspensions, 365-day suspensions and expulsions is provided in policies 4351, Short-Term Suspension, and 4353, Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion. (See also policy 4333, Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety, for information regarding 365-day suspensions for certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices.)

Articles not allowed at school: Articles that interfere in any way with school procedures, disrupt instructing or become hazards to the safety of others, are not allowed.

#### **SEARCHES POLICY BC BOE [Policy #4342](#)**

Teachers and administrators are charged with the responsibility of maintaining order at school and providing an equal opportunity for education to all students. In exercising this responsibility administrators on occasion may have to search an area or a person. The student has the right to be free from an unreasonable search of his or her person. However, school officials have the right to search a student's person or possessions if they have reasonable suspicion. In addition, Freedom High School will also conduct random searches of vehicles, lockers, buses, and classrooms.

#### **LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (Media Center)**

1. Students may come to the LRC to do schoolwork during the day **with a digital teacher pass**.
2. Students may come to the LRC before and after school. If students wish to come to the LRC during their lunch, they must have a pass from a teacher or an administrator to leave the cafeteria.
3. Students may come to the LRC to do schoolwork, check out and return books, read or study quietly. E-mail, games, and food/drink items **are not permitted**.
4. It is the responsibility of the student to speak with a media specialist upon entering the LRC during class time.
5. According to BCPS Policy, all students must read, sign, and return the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) before using any school-owned computers. Completed AUPs are kept on file in the LRC.
6. Books in the general collection may be checked out for ten days. Reference books do not circulate and may only be used in the LRC or in a class if the teacher has requested them.
7. **Any book not returned by the end of the semester will be charged to that student on the debt list. This will prevent students from attending prom, participating in graduation, or receiving their diploma until all debts are paid.**
8. Library use, including Internet access, will be lost if library and Internet privileges are abused.

**LOCKER SEARCHES - By state law the principal or designee may search any locker at any time. Lockers can be inspected because they are school property. Even if they are viewed as student property, the student has no reason to expect that he will be allowed to keep the locker private. All lockers will be cleaned out at the end of each school year. School officials are not responsible for personal items left in lockers.**

### **Cafeteria and Lunchroom**

Students may eat in the school cafeteria or bring their lunch from home. **BCPS does not allow students to doordash food to the school.** Students are not permitted to leave campus for lunch and are expected to eat only in the designated areas. Food should not be taken to the classrooms or other parts of the building.

When finished with their meal, students are expected to place all trash in the proper receptacle. Failure to follow this guideline will result in disciplinary action. Additionally, students are expected to leave a clean table as other students will eat after them. All students will remain in the cafeteria during lunch. Students should employ courtesy in lunch lines. Breaking line is considered an offense against your fellow students. Running to the cafeteria is not permitted.

### **LENDING GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL MEALS**

Students who are required to pay for meals are expected to provide payment in a timely manner. BCPS does recognize, however, that students occasionally may forget or lose their meal money, at which time the student may charge a reimbursable meal.

NO supplemental items such as extra milk, cookies, ice cream, or potato chips, may be purchased at any time until all outstanding charges are paid in full.

### **Local Meal Charge Policy Communication**

Notices of outstanding balances for all students will be sent home weekly by the cafeteria.

When the student's meal charge reaches \$7.00, households will receive automated calls weekly.

- The Child Nutrition Manager will contact households when the student has accumulated \$10.00 in charges.
- The School Counselor will contact the household when the student has accumulated \$15.00 in charges to offer assistance.
- The Principal/Assistant Principal will contact the household once the student accumulates \$20.00 charges.
- Debt letter with a free and reduced meal application packet will be mailed to the household by the Child Nutrition Department if the student has accumulated \$30.00 in charges.
- Please note that all middle school and high school students are required to sign at the Point of Sale that they are charging to their meal account for each charged transaction.

The following resources/links are available to assist families in keeping up to date with cafeteria information, payment options and account information:

1. Pay in person. Stop by any school location between 7AM and 2PM Monday through Friday to make a payment. You may pay with cash or a check. You may also send cash or a check to school with your child. Checks should be made payable to your child's school cafeteria.
  2. [www.lunchprepay.com](http://www.lunchprepay.com) (Online lunch payment system. Parents can place money on students' accounts and see charges on students' accounts)
  3. (Free and Reduced Lunch Forms, Meal prices and Payment options)  
Link to online Free and Reduced Meal applications:  
<https://family.titank12.com/application/new?identifier=SSF6UC>
  4. <http://burke.nutrislice.com/> (School menus- breakfast and lunch)
- You may contact the Child Nutrition Department in regards to questions pertaining to your student's account. Payment plans can be arranged by contacting the Child Nutrition Administrator at 828-439-4318.

### **School Debt**

School debt shall result in the loss of extracurricular privileges. This includes but is not limited to school dances, prom, or a loss of parking privileges. Debt not paid by the last day of school to the cafeteria, is owed to the student's current school. Households will need to make arrangements with that school for payment. The debt will become part of the student's Infinite Campus file and will follow the student through all grade levels, until paid. If debt is not paid this could affect student's participation in non-mandatory extracurricular activities as noted previously.

Cafeteria will allow students to charge school lunches under the following conditions:

1. All money borrowed is expected to be paid back and is considered debt. Cafeteria will document all charges.
2. Students with cafeteria debt may not be able to participate in extracurricular activities until the debt is paid in full. Extrafood items cannot be purchased until the debt is paid in full.
3. *Students with \$15 or more of debt will have their driving privileges suspended until debt is paid in full.*

### **MESSAGES AND DELIVERIES FOR STUDENTS**

School staff will only take messages for students that can be delivered at the end of the day and will not be responsible for failure of students to get said messages. No student will be pulled from class and no class will be interrupted in order to deliver a message without administrative approval. Parents may bring school-related items (school work, books, projects, athletic equipment, clothing, etc) to school for their children in rare situations but this will not be allowed to become a common occurrence.

Deliveries from outside agencies are not permitted for students.

### **TELEPHONE USE**

Students and teachers will not be pulled from academic/instructional classes to accept phone calls.

## **PARENT AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL CONFERENCES**

Due to the wide variety of teaching schedules, parents wishing to have a conference with a teacher must contact the teacher or leave a message with the student's counselor to arrange a conference.

## **PAYMENTS**

**Students who must make payment to the school of any amount \$50.00 and higher must make it in cash, use the online portal ([My School Bucks](#)), or money order made out to Freedom High School.** Any payment to any department or group affiliated with Freedom High School should always be made out to Freedom High School and not to the teacher in charge of collecting the money, nor to the company providing the service. Students will be given receipts for any money they pay to Freedom High School.

**A \$20.00 service charge will be applied to all return NSF check**

## **Prom Guidelines**

### **Eligibility**

Juniors and seniors are eligible to attend and may purchase a guest ticket. Guests may be any high school student or any person 20 years old or younger with an approved guest form. All attendees must be in good academic, attendance and behavior standing to be eligible to attend. It is the final discretion of the principal to approve prom admission. ***Guests who are freshmen or sophomores at Freedom or who do not attend Freedom must be approved by the administration prior to purchasing a ticket. Guest application forms must be completed prior to ticket purchase.***

### **Disciplinary/behavior requirements within the current school year**

**OSS:** Students with any days of OSS may not attend the prom.

**ISS:** Students with more than three days of ISS may not attend the prom.

*\*Freshmen or sophomores with any OSS or more than three days of ISS may not attend the prom as a guest.*

*\*Students who are ineligible to attend the prom may submit an appeal to the administration. Appeals are accepted from January through April prior to the prom. Students will be notified of the appeal decision within one week of the appeal's submission. **Guests are not able to appeal.***

Prom ticket prices will be announced in January at the start of the second semester. At that time, ticket sales will take place. Once a student is at the prom, he/she will NOT be allowed to leave and return. A prom King and Queen will be elected from the senior class. No canes will be allowed. Prom guests must have an academic status between ninth grade and a college student not older than 20 years of age.

Any student that has received OSS may request an appeal to be able to attend the PROM.

### **HOMECOMING COURT AND ESCORT SELECTION**

**The purpose of the Homecoming Queen is to represent the student body of High School by exemplifying the spirit and highest standards of the school.**

#### **Senior Selection Process**

School administration & staff will use the following procedures to compose the nomination ballot for homecoming court: A comprehensive list of all senior females will be run from Infinite Campus.

After nomination:

- Students not eligible based on the eligibility requirements below will be excluded.
- Students will be able to “opt-out” if they wish not to be nominated for the court.
- A final list of eligible students will be used as the official Homecoming ballot.

The Homecoming Court shall be chosen from the senior class by the senior class. Seniors will be given a list of all senior girls from which to nominate.

Each senior may nominate 6 girls. The 12 girls who have the most nomination votes and who meet the guidelines listed below will comprise the Homecoming Court.

The Homecoming Queen shall be chosen from the 12 nominees by a school-wide election. She will be crowned during the halftime ceremony at the homecoming football game.

#### **Homecoming Escorts**

Homecoming escorts shall be from Freedom High School. Homecoming escorts shall either be a parent of the homecoming court participant or a male from the senior class and meet the same guidelines as the 12 nominees chosen for the court. Each of the 12 nominees shall be chosen by the nominee. Due to game conflicts, varsity football players participating in the Homecoming game are not eligible to be escorts.

#### **Homecoming Court Dress**

- Clothing should be tasteful, appropriate for a high school function, and not excessively revealing.

#### **Academic Requirements**

- Nominees must have a minimum 2.0 GPA, unweighted.
- Nominees can have no course failures during high school tenure or credit losses due to the attendance policy

### **Homecoming Queen Eligibility Requirements**

- Must have passed at least 20 credit hours, thus obtaining senior class status.
- Must be enrolled at Freedom High School.
- Must have no out-of-school suspension (OSS) violations during the current school year.
- Must have had no more than three (3) full days of in-school suspension (ISS) during the current school year.
- Must have no felony or misdemeanor criminal convictions.
- Must be present for the full 90 minutes for all on-campus classes on the day of Homecoming.

### **Homecoming Queen Responsibilities**

The Homecoming Queen will be expected to represent Freedom High School in various school and community functions such as Christmas parades, school pageant events, and other functions as assigned by the Homecoming advisor.

**\*\*\*The School Administration shall have final approval of the Homecoming Court and have the right to remove any candidate who would not exemplify the highest standards of the school.\*\*\***

### **Homecoming Dance**

Guests may be any high school student or any person 20 years old or younger with an approved guest form. Guests must complete the guest application form and be approved at least one week prior to the dance. Approved guests must have a pre-sold ticket with their name on it. A photo ID along with the pre-sold ticket will be required for guests in order to gain entry into the dance. Guest application forms with due dates will be available at the front desk a few weeks prior to the date of the dance.

### **STUDENT DRIVING AND VEHICLE PARKING**

**Driving a vehicle is a privilege that carries with it much responsibility.** Students who drive to school must at all times accept and carry out those responsibilities. Once a student arrives at school, the student may not leave campus without parental permission. Safety and compliance with driving regulations are the main concern of the administration. **Failure to comply with standards of parking and driving will jeopardize the privilege of driving to school. Repeated offenses can result in loss of eligibility to purchase future parking passes. All vehicles must be registered.** Registration forms are available at the front desk. Students must have a parking pass to park on campus. Tags will be sold for student parking for **\$50.00**. Registration forms must be presented with the parent's or guardian's signature.

Upon completing the registration form, students and parents agree to the following:

1. To operate the vehicles safely and in a courteous manner at all times.
2. To park the vehicle in a marked place designated for students immediately upon arrival at school and leave the car immediately after parking. Students are not to park in the Teacher's Parking Lot.
3. Students are expected to report to school immediately upon arriving on campus. They are not permitted to hang out or remain in cars before, during, or after school hours.

4. Students are not to go to the car anytime during the day (this includes the lunch period or between class). Any student in the parking lot during lunch without a note from the office should expect disciplinary action. Once the car is parked in the morning, it is to remain in the lot for the entire day. If a student has to leave school by vehicle, he or she must first obtain permission in the main office and follow the correct sign-out procedure which includes receipt of a check-out form.
5. To operate only a vehicle that has been safety inspected according to the North Carolina law.
6. To drive with extreme caution during the time other students are walking, riding bicycles, or riding motorized two-wheeled vehicles to and from school.
7. To display the auto registration tag issued by the school in the designated location on the vehicle.
8. Traffic violations, reckless driving of any type, overloading of vehicles, or violation of the aforementioned points could result in the suspension of a student's privilege to drive to school.
9. Students who engage in reckless driving will be ticketed and lose driving privileges. Passing in the parking area, speeding, spinning tires, cutting across the parking lot, or driving in any fashion that is dangerous constitutes reckless driving.
10. Students are not permitted to haul passengers in the bed of trucks.
11. Students may not purchase a parking tag if they have outstanding debts owed to Freedom High School.
12. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors may purchase a parking tag and drive to school.
13. Students will lose driving privileges for 9 weeks following a 10-day suspension.

#### **PARKING FEE SCHEDULE**

\$50 per year- Mid-year Graduates will be refunded \$25.00 after all requirements have been met and the parking tag has been returned within 30 days of completion of High School. No refunds on parking passes.  
\$10 - Replacement Tag fee.

#### **PARKING TICKETS**

Parking tickets will be issued for violation of parking and registration regulations. A fine will be charged for the following:

1. Failure to register vehicle (\$5.00)
2. Failure to display tag permanently (\$5.00)
3. False registration of vehicle (\$5.00, suspended driving privileges/Administrative Decision)
4. Parking in a restricted area (\$5.00)
5. Parking in a no-parking zone or loading zone (\$5.00)
6. Blocking other vehicles (\$5.00)
7. Parking in the wrong parking lot (\$5.00, and/or suspended driving privileges)
8. Parking in the wrong parking space (\$5.00)
9. No parking on left-hand side or driver's side of curb (\$5.00)
10. Misuse of tag (\$5.00 & suspended driving privileges/  
administrative decision.
11. Reckless driving (\$20.00, and/or suspended driving privileges)

### **Writing and Collection of Ticket Fines**

Anyone found parking incorrectly, taking more than one space, no display of parking pass, etc, will be fined. Other possible fines can be levied. The student has five days to pay the ticket. Any ticket not paid within five days will cause the student to be turned in to the administration for disciplinary action. Any tickets written without a parking permit number will have the vehicle information referred to a SRO who will investigate ownership of vehicle. Disciplinary action will be taken. Please pay fines to the finance office.

### **TEMPORARY PARKING**

Temporary parking permits will be issued by the administration before the beginning of school day. A student who has a parking tag can obtain a temporary permit if for some reason he/she must drive a different car. The student must advise how long they will need the temporary tag and must provide their parking tag number.

### **SEARCH OF VEHICLES**

A student's vehicle is subject to search by proper school officials if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that drugs, alcohol, firearms, stolen property or other contraband might be present in the vehicle. If evidence to support criminal conduct is obtained, law enforcement officials will be called in to assist in the search.

### **VISITORS POLICY**

Freedom High School operates with a closed campus policy. All visitors must use the front entrance of the school and report to the receptionist's desk. Infants and children SHOULD NOT be brought to school during school hours. All parents and visitors are to sign in at the receptionist's desk in the office and be issued a visitor's badge.

### **Progress Report Schedule**

| <b><u>Progress Report Issue Date</u></b> | <b><u>End of 9 Weeks</u></b> |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| September 23                             | October 17                   |
| November 25                              | December 19                  |
| February 10                              | March 13                     |
| April 28                                 | May 29                       |

### **COMPUTER AND COMPUTER RESOURCE USE POLICY #3220 & 3225**

Computers and computer resources are for educational use. All students must sign and have on file in their cumulative folder a Burke County Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy. Signed policies for returning students are still in effect. New enrollments must be sure to obtain, sign, and turn in an Acceptable Use Policy to the Media Center. Students must be familiar with and follow the Burke County Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy. Students will be assigned a user name and a password. Students must use their own username and password to log on the network. Passwords are to be kept private. Do not share your password.

Unacceptable use of school technology may result in loss of computers and computer resources. Examples of unacceptable uses include the following:

1. Accessing inappropriate websites. (i.e. accessing pornographic sites).
2. Using computers and computer resources for non-educational activities. (i.e. non-educational chat rooms, email, printing, digital imaging).
3. Logging in as anyone other than yourself.
4. Participating in non-educational activities, activities that are not teacher assigned.

**Consequences:** Inappropriate or unethical use or failure to adhere to the guidelines may include but are not limited to, limitation or cancellation of user privileges, possible disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action.

### **FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This letter is to notify you of your right of access to your child's record, which is located in the records room at Freedom High School. If you would like to view your child's record, please contact your child's guidance counselor in order to fill out the appropriate form.

The school may, without the consent of parents or students, release data that is regarded as directory information (i.e. name and address of parents or guardian, birth date, academic record, level of achievement, and attendance data) to:

1. Other school officials, including teachers, within the system who have a valid legitimate educational interest.
2. The state superintendent and his officers or subordinates so long as the
3. intended use of the data is consistent with the superintendent's statutory powers and responsibilities.
4. Officials of other school systems in which the student intends to enroll.
5. It should also be noted that the names and mailing addresses of students at Freedom High School may be released to local community colleges and Armed Forces recruiters unless parents or students have requested that such information not be released. If you request that such information

not be released, please sign at the bottom of this form and have your child return it to the receptionist, by August 31. If this form is not returned, your child's name and mailing address will be released. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Parent's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date