

# Ram Page

Freedom Middle School

2010-2011 Theme:

*Voyage to Academic Excellence: "Shifting Paradigms"*

## A Message From The Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we near the end of the school session, and the close of another year of working together for our students, we celebrate a great deal of progress that has occurred this year. We have had major accomplishments such as our 8th Grade students increasing their performance on the 8th Grade Writing Assessment by 19 percentage points from last year's score. Our band program received a major contribution from the Mr. Hollis Opus Foundation and our FCCLA took top honors in the regional leadership competition. These major accomplishments along with others could have not been achieved without the tireless efforts of the students, teachers and you, the parents. We wish to thank you.

As we look to next year we are excited about the new students that will become Freedom Rams as a result of the school system's redistricting plan. Our planning is underway to ensure that they along with all of our returning students will have another successful school year. One of my major focuses next year will be to increase our parental involvement. As the father of a 9 year old, I understand the struggles of trying to work a full time job and be a supportive parent at your child's school. However, I truly believe, and research has proven that increased parental involvement improves student achievement. We have a new slate of PTSA Officers who are eager to help me in my quest to increase parental involvement next year.

We wish you a very safe and enjoyable summer. Be on the lookout for the summer reading list. It will be on our Website by mid-May 2011. During the second week of school, we will have a major party/celebration for the students that complete projects based on the summer reading list books. All the details are forthcoming and will be posted to the school's website.

Determine to Succeed,  
Michael A Jones, Principal



*A publication for the parents, staff, and community  
of Freedom Middle School*



## Counselor's Corner

It's hard to believe that the 2010-2011 is almost completed. Sometimes students and parents think that the summer break is a time to just relax and forget about the learning, however quite the contrary is true. Summer vacation is the time for relaxation and fun, but it should also be a time for continued learning. Here are some ways to keep your child learning through out their time away from school.

1. Plan for regular trips to your neighborhood library. Having your child to continue reading during the summer break will keep their mind engaged. It will also help your child increase and improve their reading proficiency. Question your child each day about what they have read.
2. Have your child go on-line to look at the newspaper or pick up a copy of your neighborhood paper. On Common Ground and the Dekalb Neighbor are free newspapers. Reading the newspaper will keep your child abreast of current events.
3. Purchase a Summer Bridge Activities book. Learning activities in all subjects are selected by grade level. Completing math activities will help your child build their math aptitude. Summer Bridge books can be purchased at School Box stores or online at schoolbox.com. They cost 14.95 each.
4. There are also many websites, which provide practice in all school subjects. FunBrain.com, coolmath.com and mathplayground.com are just a few.

We have compiled a notebook, which has information on various theme camps being offered within the metro area. Most of these offerings have a fee.

Final Report Cards will be available on May 26 and CRCT score reports will be available in mid June. Students are asked to bring in \$1.00 for postage to mail final report cards and test scores. Students that do not send in the money for postage, will be required to pick up final report cards and test scores after May 26.

Finally, Parents, if you have a rising 6th grader that will attend Freedom Middle in August; please make sure that you have updated your address and phone numbers as well as the student immunization forms. All entering 6th grade students should have a complete immunization Form 3231.

### Administrative Team 2011

**Michael Jones**  
Principal

**Quinton Ward**  
6th Grade Assistant  
Principal, Assistant Principal  
of Instruction

**Dr. Judith Johnson**  
7th Grade Assistant  
Principal

**Antoine Rhodes**  
8th Grade Assistant  
Principal

### Counseling Department

**Amie Hinton**

6th grade Counselor  
**Debra Handon-Hendricks**  
Head Counselor, 7th Grade  
Counselor

**Charles Lightner**  
8th Grade Counselor

**Wylene Ward-Claudman**  
Graduation Coach

**Rita Whidbee**  
Student Support Specialist

### School Address

505 S. Hairston Road  
Stone Mountain, GA 30088  
Office: (678) 874-8702  
Fax: (678) 874-8710

### PTSA

Students, parents and teachers are encouraged to join PTSA annually. The executive board members look forward to working with Freedom Middle School for the 2011-2012 school year.

### Dekalb County School System

## Calendar 2011-2012 School Year

August 2011	
1-5 - Monday-Friday	Preplanning - all teachers report at 8:00 AM
4 - Thursday	Staff Development Day
8 - Monday	First Day of School
September	
5 - Monday	Holiday—Labor Day (School/Administrative Offices Closed)
October	
7 - Friday	Staff Development Day (students do not report)
10 - Monday	Holiday—Columbus Day (Schools Closed/Administrative Offices Open)
November	
21-25 - Monday-Friday	Holiday—(Schools Closed))
December	
16 - Friday	End of First Semester—(Winter Holidays Begin at End of Day)
January 2012	
2 - Monday	Holiday—(Schools Closed/Administrative Offices Open)
3 - Tuesday	Teacher Workday (students do not report)
4 - Wednesday	Second Semester Begins (Students Return)
16 - Monday	Holiday—Dr. M. L. King, Jr. Birthday Observed (Schools/Administrative Offices Closed)
February	
17 - Friday	Staff Development Day (students do not report)
20 - Monday	Holiday—President's Day (Schools/Administrative Offices Closed)
March	
9 - Friday	Holiday—(Schools Closed/Administrative Offices Open)
April	
2-6 - Monday-Friday	Spring Break—(Schools Closed)
May	
24 - Thursday	Last Day of School
25 - Friday	Post-planning
28 - Monday	Memorial Day Observed (Schools/Administrative offices Closed)

# Believe In Teamwork



## Team 6A News

On Team 6A, we pride ourselves on being the trailblazers for the 6th Grade at Freedom Middle School! Also, in case nobody told you, the "A" stands for AWESOME as we continue to strive to do our best and produce "A" quality students. Many of our students are future leaders. We are not afraid to set the stage on fire as the Freedom Talent Show and the Black History Program showcased a few of the team's talented students. Now I know some of you are thinking, "Well, this is a school. What about the academics?" I am proud to announce that Awesome team 6A had the most representation in the 6th Grade for the Rams Club. Please join the team teachers, Ms. Calloway (ELA), Mrs. Holmes (science), Ms. Martin (social studies), and Mr. Yates (math) in congratulating these outstanding students for their academic achievement. The students are: Faiza Abdulla, Sadik Aden, Hanika Albert, Yanus Bray, Micah Davis, Precious Goines, Saw Jaw, Hope Lemelle, Kyla'Shay Leslie, Caleb Mack Adnan Manjgafic, Jose Mares, Christina Matu, Jalesia McCord, Anthony Nguyen, Bao-Ngoc Ngyuen, Cindy Ngyuen, Danny Ngyuen, Jennie Ngyuen, Oshoriamhe Oguhmah, Parth Patel, De'Jah Smith, Bineyam Tumbo, Michael Williams and Jazmine Zachery A special honor goes to Jalesia, Cindy, and Danny as they also made the Principals' List! Please do not be surprised to hear from many of these students in the future as Freedom Middle School continues to grow! We look forward to hearing and seeing big things from all of our students from Team Awesome succeed next year in 7th grade. Enjoy your summer and remember to read, read, and read.

## 6B News

*Singh, McKenzie, Thomas, Heath*

After the successful completion of the CRCT, our math students will be exploring concepts through a challenging math project which would incorporate all the standards and elements taught during this academic year. They will also be creating an Algebraic Sandwich based on their prior knowledge of equations and algebraic expressions.

This semester in earth science, our students have investigated the significant role of the sun and large bodies of water and how they affect the water cycle here on earth. All students should be able to explain that a large portion of the earth's surface water consist of, Oceans, Rivers, Lakes and underground water.

In ELA, we have covered a wide variety of literary styles and techniques and have implored our students to take part in this unique opportunity to learn the many facets of writing. As of late, we have completed our unit on "Informational Text" and have also covered the nuances of understanding "Test Taking Strategies". Our instructional coach, Mr. Dillard, also assisted in teaching the class during these lessons and the students all seem to agree that having a firm grasp on comprehending how to approach a test is also instrumental in achieving a higher score. Our "25 Book Campaign" has also been a major success. Our last two teams Stanford and USC, both from 6th period, are vying for the "Team B Reading Championship", which will be announced May 1st. Furthermore, as we move into spring, and the days become warmer, we will explore the world of poetry. The students will learn the many types of poetry and be responsible for constructing a "Poetry Notebook", which will display examples of the various poems they have written.

## 6C News Article:

*Theme: "One Team, One Dream"*

The teachers of 6C would like to wish all of our students a happy, safe, and restful summer. We would also like to congratulate our star students for the 2010-2011 school year on a job well done:

1. Muya Mahitula
2. Sumaya Muse
3. Kon Kon
4. Diana Nguyen
5. Patten Tody
6. Mia LeSane
7. lauryn King

Most Improved- Andre Mills

Sincerely,

Mrs. T MaNais      Ms. P Owens  
Mrs. M Wilcox      Mrs. T. Bryson  
Mrs. K Mack-Baker

## Team 7B News

Our team would like to recognize the eight students that entered a kids invention contest. The students did a great job on coming up with a way to make a gravity dispenser useful. The student winners will receive school supplies and various goodie bags for their entries. Good Job 7B students !!

## Team 7C News

We are delighted to report that team 7C will become pen pals with th Anwiankwanta, S.D.A. Primary School in Bekwai-Ahanti , Ghana, West Africa! We look forward to the cultural exchange!

## Team 8A

Team 8A (Ball, Moore, Harper, Golden) would like to thank our students for a fantastic year of dedication and hard work. While many of our students have done exceptionally well, we would like to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond. These students have received significant awards and honors as they have completed their final year of middle school. We would also like to congratulate Fatmata Bayoh and Gunawork Wondimneh on being accepted into the Paideia School in Atlanta, Georgia.

- ELA: Fatmata Bayoh - highest team score - Statewide 8th Grade Writing Assessment
- Math: Salih Tajir and Nidhi Parmar, Highest Ream Score on the Math Mock CRCT test
- Science: Toan Do - highest team score - Science Mock CRCT
- Social Studies: Nigheim Lyons - highest team score - Social Studies Mock CRCT
- Our dedicated students, who have worked hard all year, are ready for High School.



# School Highlights

Voyage to

## Instructional Coach's Corner

*Language Arts Instructional Coach: Mr. W. Dillard*

*Math Instructional Coach: Ms. K. Goolsby*

Freedom Middle School is proud of the accomplishments and gains that were made by the eighth grade students on the Georgia Middle Grades Writing Assessment for the 2010-2011 school year. As quoted by Oscar Wilde, "Success is a science; if you have the conditions, you get the result." Our eighth grade students really brought life to this quote.

During the first semester, the students participated in interactive writing workshop rotations and "Hoops for Writing" Saturday Workshops, which were instructed by the teachers in the ELA Department. Also, they were apart of several mock Expository and Persuasive writing assessments in which they received constructed feedback from their teachers, and their peers.

As a result of the students' hard work and dedication, they made a 19% gain compared to last year. This means that 73% of our students met the standards for the MGWA including 2 of the students exceeding the standards. This endeavor was recognized by the county as one of the three schools with the greatest gains. The Administrators, faculty and staff are proud of this accomplishment. Our goal next year is to have 85% of eighth students to meet and exceed the standards on the MGWA.

### Helpful websites:

[www.mathforum.com](http://www.mathforum.com)    [www.aaamath.com](http://www.aaamath.com)  
[www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com)    [www.figurethis.org](http://www.figurethis.org)

## What's Happening in the Exceptional Education Department?

Students are being taught through standards-based instruction. Instruction is being increased with rigor and relevance as well as higher-order thinking skills. Students are making academic gains and will accomplish their goal of making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). We believe this year, we will reach our goal.

I would like to add the highlights regarding Special Olympics:

- **Javon Gay** received 1st place in 100m dash and 3rd place in the softball throw.
- **Yohanis Fissaha** received 4th place in 100m dash and 4th place in the softball throw.

## Freedom Middle School Ambassadors

This year, Freedom Middle School trained 19 students as ambassadors and peer mediators. The students went through a 6 training sessions conducted by Mrs. Whidbee (Student Support Specialist) and Ms. Hinton (6th Grade Counselor). As ambassadors, these 7th and 8th grade students assisted with new students by conducting tours, helping new students with lockers and schedules. As peer mediators, the students helped students with handling conflict. Thank you for a job well done. We look forward to working with you again next year.

Tyriel Yates	7th	Kathy Nguyen	8th
Nicholas Baugh	8th	Karen Tran	8th
Mercedes Guzman	8th	Amani Theus	7th
Anunakayah Delacruz	8th	Sequoyah Williams	7th
Stefan Salvador	8th	Gunawork Wondimneh	8th
Meron Ferketa	8th	Michael Davis	8th
Julieta Sanchez	7th	Suu Suu Hliang	8th
Ceaira Cox	7th	Fatmata Bayoh	7th
Lyndon Hart	8th	Ifrah Abdullahi	8th
Ciara Walton	8th		

## Congratulations Board Scholars

Freedom Middle School would like to recognize our 4 Board Scholars for 2010-2011 School Year. These students were selected based on their academic achievement and test scores. They were recognized on March 22, 2011 at the annual Middle School Board Scholars Program.

### MERON FERKETA

Meron began her career as a Dekalb County Student at Indian Creek Elementary School. Meron is from Ethiopia located in Eastern Africa. She moved to the United States when she was five years old. Her favorite subject is Math and she dreams of becoming a Pediatrician in her own practice.

### IFRAH ADDULLAHI

On March 23, 2007, Ifrah came to the United States with her mother, 3 siblings and her step-dad. Before coming to the US, she lived in Kenya. She attended Jolly Elementary and later came to Freedom Middle School in the 6th grade. Ifrah's favorite subjects are Math and Social Studies. She is able to speak Somali and Arabic. Ifrah would like to become a traveling Doctor because it will allow her to visit various places and help people of many nationalities.

### A. Aja Lippit:

Aja attended E. L. Miller Elementary in Dekalb County from kindergarten to 5th Grade. She has been a student at Freedom since 6th grade. Aja works hard because she strives to be the best. She is an Honor Roll student and an active member of the FMS band where she plays the saxophone. Aja would like to join the Airforce and become a medical doctor.

### B. Zaire Ellis

Zaire attended Stone Mountain Elementary School in Dekalb County until he reached the 5th grade. Zaire loves listening to music and skate boarding. His career goal includes attending Ga. Tech.

## The Mighty RAMS Band

Congratulations to Mr. Monte and the FMS band for being recipients of the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation Grant. Freedom Middle School band will receive eight clarinets, four trumpets, four flutes, and two refurbished oboes. You have demonstrated an outstanding dedication to helping FMS music program by helping students achieve their greatest potential.

The Freedom Middle School Mighty RAMS Band is one of the largest organizations at Freedom Middle School. Under the direction of Mr. H. T. Monte', this organization offers courses for 6th grade beginning band, 7th grade intermediate band, 8th grade advanced band and 6th – 8th grade percussion classes. This year, the FMS concert band received A superior rating in all categories of the large group performance evaluations at the District 4 GMEA festival. Also, the FMS band, in combination with the Clarkston High School band traveled to Huntsville, Alabama and participated in the Rock City battle of the bands. Congratulations to Mr. Anthony Hunt CHS band director.

Finally, SHOUT-OUT to Freedom MS Alumni band students that are currently seniors in high school. All of students below has received full scholarships to colleges and will continue to play in the band at the college level. Great Job Mr. Monte for giving them a solid foundation:

Jamie Jones	Norfolk State University	48,000
Natalie Williams	Southern University	23,128
Lauren Wiggins	Tennessee State University	80,000
Doremus Ellison	Tennessee State University	40,000
Tiffany Core	Tennessee State University	40,000
Renard Davis	Alabama A&M	20,000
Jordan Stanley	Alabama A&M	56,000
Meagan Vann	University of Mississippi (Ole Miss)	415,000 (Academics)
Lindsey Baker	Florida A&M University	124,000

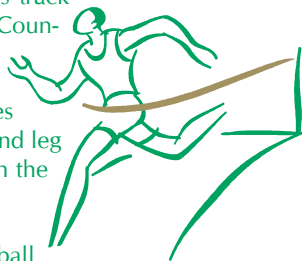




DeKalb County School System  
 Freedom Middle School  
 505 S. Hairston Rd.  
 Stone Mountain, GA 30088

## Sports News

Congratulations to all members of the boys track team. Our men placed 4th overall in the Dekalb County's Track and Field Championship Meet. Jerome Miller placed 3rd in 400M Dash and anchored the 2nd place 4X400 M Relay. Tarnandus Jones placed 4th in the 100 M Dash and ran a strong 2nd leg on the 4X400 M Relay. Juma Bello placed 3rd in the 200 M Dash. Great season and job well done!



Freedom Middle School will have football tryouts beginning August 2011. Dates and information will TBA. The football schedule is as follows:

Date	Opponent	Home/Away	Time	Stadium
September 3	Champion	Away	10:30 am	Hallford
September 10	Tucker	Home	9:00 am	Adams
September 17	Open			
September 24	Druid Hills	Away	10:30 am	Avondale
October 1	Best Academy	Home	10:30 am	Hallford
October 8	Miller Grove	Away	9: 00 am	Avondale
October 15	Stone Mountain	Away	9:00 am	Avondale

## Freedom MS would like to Congratulate the 2011-2012 Cheerleaders.

Janaysha Clark    Tinesse Jones  
 Tinna Henderson    Lashantria Jackson  
 Spencer Knox    Summer Riley  
 Hope Spinger    Akilah Weston  
 Nave' Thompson    Alajah Williams  
 Kourtney Mathis

