

# The Bagpiper

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# It takes a big heart to help shape little minds

By Stormy Killpack  
*Staff Writer*

Teachers are a big part of any student’s life. Preschool is a dark scary place for such young children; it is the first time they will be away from their parents and with people they don’t know. The teachers become their care-givers during the day while the parents are away.

“I like my teacher,” five year-old Anna Cochrane said. “She is nice.”

Kids begin to like going to school and enjoy spending time in the classroom and learning new things. It goes from being a scary experience to something they look forward to doing.

“Class is fun,” Cochrane added. “I like art, and learning about spring.”

This year, the preschoolers are learning a lot about the letters and the sounds they make, some kids are even already reading.

“I love the grade I am teaching,” Barb Gady said. “I just love the grade I teach, love the kids and helping them learn new

things.”

Gady is not only teaching her kids about reading, but also what to do in an emergency situation such as a fire drill

With the loud, monster screaming in the hall, lights flashing, and kids huddling together, a fire drill is a scary moment for any four year-old. Gady comes in to save the day and comforts the preschoolers.

“I love getting suckers when we have a fire drill,” four year-old Rylee Russell said.

Gady and her staff do a great job comforting the four and five year-olds after a scary moment.

Walking into the preschool room and looking around, one sees there are blocks and rules. Little minds are ticking, and you can almost see their brains working, trying to figure out the heights of different things.

“My favorite part of class is learning how big things are,” Russell explained.

The excitement in their eyes show their happiness to be at Freeman, seeing what adventure today will bring.

Photo by Stormy Killpack



“Miss Melissa” Swanson with Jaycee Primmer, Max Cecil, Karson Lally, and Elsie Kopp



Mrs. Gady’s kids are smiling from ear to ear, ready to go home after a long recess running and laughing in the summer sun.

## The fun life of a six year-old

By Ryan Leason  
*Staff writer*

Every person can say they miss naps from kindergarten or even snack time. The kids in the Kindergarten class of Jennifer Jensen have been working on skills all year all the way from math and science to English and history. Jensen is a caring person that loves to work with kids.

“I love it!” Jensen explained. “They are excited to learn.”

Working with kids is a hard job and takes a lot of patience. Jensen is a great teacher because she has patience with the children and loves them all equally.

“She is so nice,” 6 year-old Dylan Johnson said. “She always helps me learn, and she is my favorite teacher.”

All the students love Jensen; she is one of the favorites down there in the elementary.

“My favorite part is math,” Kaylee Ripke said. “She helps us and lets us have time to work.”

Jensen is one of the favorites among the kids, and she knows how to teach with patience and love for children. This month is teacher appreciation month and Jensen is definitely appreciated by all of the kids and their parents.



Dylan Johnson is learning and thinking hard during math class.



Mrs. Schweiger helps the kids learn through visual projects.



Kaylee Ripke looks up from a writing assignment.



# Why does it feel like first grade is forever?

By **Hanna Watkins**  
*Staff Writer*

The first grade is always scary when you're starting out. This is the start of their future: elementary school. At Freeman, we have some of the best teachers in the Spokane area. When students are shy and quite, the first-grade is the beginning of a foundation for these students.

First-grade teachers Amy Heinen and Chris Cochrane are currently teaching their students about penguins.

"My first graders love to learn about the world," Heinen said. "When we study penguins, we are able to study another continent and have an in depth look at an animal species."

Heinen's student Vance Coyner enjoys learning about math because he likes the challenge. That's not everyone's favorite subject to learn, especially for a first-grader.

"I like math because it's fun to figure out problems," Vance said.

Even when the students are stuck, Heinen always has extra time to help them and work them through their issues. Heinen enjoys helping students learn and become more independent. The main goal in first-grade is how to read and write and the basic mathematic skills.

"I love to watch these six and seven year-olds learn and ask questions, discuss big ideas and, listen to each other," Heinen said.

Heinen has taught first-graders for three years; before that, she was a sixth-grade teacher and a reading specialist.

"First-graders are very inquisitive and make amazing connections as they learn," Heinen explained. "Also, they are fun, happy people."

Chris Cochrane has been teaching the first-grade for the past 15 years.

"I enjoy teaching young children to read and write," Cochrane said. "The amount of progress they make in first-grade is amazing."

Right now in her class, the students are learning about the lifecycle of penguins, and at the end of the unit, they will have to paint a life-size penguin and write a report. Another thing this first-grade class does is Rocket Math. This includes addition and subtraction.

"In the morning, we read while Mrs. Cochrane gets our rocket math ready," Alena Cochrane said.

First graders are very smart and pick things up quickly. They go from knowing their sounds and reading small words to reading complete paragraphs.

"It gives me a thrill when a student is hooked and loves reading," Cochrane said.

This first-grade class has also been learning a lot about the lifecycles of animals. Earlier this year, they studied the lifecycle of a beetle by observing it from egg to pupa, to larva, to beetle.

Heinen and Cochrane enjoy spending time helping out the first-graders. This is their passion.



Photo by Hanna Watkins

Mrs. Heinen's first grade posing for a class photo.



Photo by Hanna Watkins

Small group reading lesson with Mrs. Cochrane.

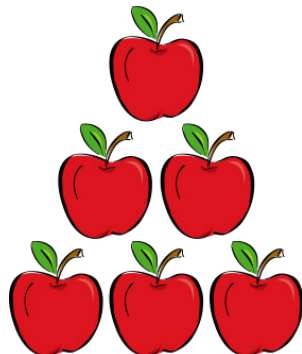


Photo by Hanna Watkins

Lakyn Crist and Tanner Goldsmith working hard on their writing skills.

# Second-grade teachers top of the class

By **Austin Stark**  
*Staff Writer*

The second grade is a place that is full of curious, wonderful, exploring young minds. In Cherie Dexter class, they have been learning and doing a lot of this this school year of. As a class, their favorite subjects are math, reading and science.

Dexter's students love that she is always respectful of others.

Dexter loves that she "is able to see such a large amount of growth that my students have made from the beginning of the year."

Teaching can be a very stressful job because there are so many different personalities and such a wide variety of different ways kids learn. Being able to adjust one's teaching style between so many different students is remarkable. Fellow second-grade teacher Dustin Reed enjoys time with his students as well.

"I love how the students are like little sponges that soak up the information you give them," Reed explained. "Every

day is a different exciting day and all above rewarding to see how much growth they make throughout the year."

Reed didn't plan on being a teacher when he went to college.

"I started majoring in physical therapy in college and a few weeks I didn't make the cut for classes, so over that Christmas break I worked at a local ski hill in Missoula, MT teaching skiing and snowboarding lessons," Reed said of his pathway to teaching. "Since I was the new guy, I was put with all the young kids. I enjoyed working with them and seeing the growth. From barely being able to walk in their ski boots to weeks later following me zigzagging down the ski hill."

From this experience, he started down the path that put him where he is today as a teacher at Freeman Elementary School. Freeman's second-graders are lucky to have two teachers who love what they do and are dedicated to their students.



Photo by Austin Stark

Mrs. Dexter's second-grade class is ready to learn.



Photo by Austin Stark

All the students pay attention to Mrs. Dexter as she teaches them a lesson.



Photo by Austin Stark

Mr. Reed and his second-grade class hard at work.



## Third graders have fun with their teachers

By Andy Mitchell  
Staff Writer

We have amazing teachers here at Freeman School District, but there is one teacher that stands out to her students. Third-grade teacher Kim Metcalf provides a stepping stone in students' life-long education. It's rare to find a teacher that loves her students, and want to see the students make progress throughout their educations.

"My main goal is to see that all students have made progress," Metcalf said.

The third-graders have to read at a third-grade reading level, improving from 30 words at the beginning of the school year to 38 words at the end. Writing in third-grade is supposed to be longer, especially narrative writing. Third-graders are expected to write paragraphs and write in a variety of genres.

"I like that she is caring sweet, and a good learning teacher!" Metcalf's student Olivia Campbell said. "My favorite part about being a third-grader is that I have friends and the greatest teacher."

Every teacher has a different goal to teach or to accomplish by the end of the school year. Third-grade teacher Mary Ellen Wall is trying to cover as much math as she can before the end of the school year.

"My favorite part about teaching third graders is watching their eyes light up when they finally get something," Wall said. "I like my

teacher because if I get something wrong she says, 'Good job but keep trying,'" third-grader Cameron Lamotte said of working with Wall.

Wall is loved by her third-grade students because she is able to explain things that make it seem so much easier. On top of making everything easier for the students to achieve more, she has taught the students so much this year.

"I like my teacher because she's taught me so much that if I wouldn't have had her, I wouldn't know this much," Wall's student Lily Jones said.



Photo courtesy of Kim Metcalf



Photo courtesy of Kim Metcalf

Mrs. Metcalf and her class celebrate the Seahawks SuperBowl win.



Photo courtesy of Kim Metcalf

Mrs. Metcalf and her class on their annual fieldtrip to the Rockford Fire Station.

## Fourth grade teachers make learning fun

By Abigail Denmark  
Staff Writer

"My favorite teacher so far in my life is Mrs. Smith because she always helps me when I am stuck with my assignments and she is so nice," fourth-grader Jaron Iltz said.

"Mrs. Edwards is the best teacher ever," fourth-grader Erikah Linn said. "We are lucky to have her as a teacher at this school and she never leaves us in the dust."

Every teacher's goal is to give their students the fundamentals for the next stage in their students' life, but for Angie Smith and Tracy Edwards, they take student learning to the next level.

"No matter how much I am struggling Mrs. Edwards is always there to help me put the pieces together," fourth-grader Hope Hindberg said.



Photo by Abbi Denmark

Third graders Lily Baxter and Abby Bryant reading their books along with Mrs. Smith as she reads *Hatchet*.

"The best part about being a fourth grade teacher is that children this age can really explain what they are having trouble with so that I can help them better," Edwards said. "They have a wonderful sense of humor also. They are more mature and can do tasks independently, but they are still young enough to enjoy picture books and being silly. They aren't worried about being cool yet."

Currently, the fourth-graders are learning about new subjects in the world of science, art, and building their reading skills, and they're even



Photo by Abbi Denmark

The fourth graders show their teacher, Mrs. Edwards, their understanding on how capitalization on titles and songs work.

learning some high school math.

"My favorite subject to learn about is math because it is challenging and Mrs. Edwards makes learning math fun," fourth-grader Nolan Holt said.

"The best part about being a fourth grade teacher is really getting to know my students and help guide them as they are growing and changing," Smith said. "The best part about this class is that they are so FUN! They have great ideas and such fun personalities. I love hanging out with them!"

Teachers not only make learning for these kids fun, but also they impact the children's lives for the better.

"Thanks to Mrs. Smith's help, I was able to get straight A's on my last report card and I could have never done it without her help and her making learning fun for me," her student Kate Denmark said.



Photo by Abbi Denmark

Mrs. Smith reads *Hatchet* to her class as they follow along in their copies.



## Fifth grade, the favored year and the teachers who lead it

By Matthew Gilbertson  
Staff Writer

Fifth grade is a stepping stone for all students to pass-not quite in middle school but feeling too old for elementary. The teachers in charge of educating this year's enthusiastic class are Judy Bickler, Jane Brune and Dwayne Gady. Their classes consist of teaching fifth-graders math, science, language arts and social studies. This is an underappreciated feat because it means that teachers must be able to juggle their schedules and students questions with the curriculum of several courses. And as we all remember, fifth-grade students have a hard time concentrating for long periods of time. This is no exception for this year's bunch of comical upstarts.

In all fifth grade classes, students are just finishing up online-testing. But, Brune's class is also working on a special project.

"A few years ago we won a greenhouse in a competition, but we have only gotten a chance to set it up this year," Brune said.

Her class is doing individual projects and experiments around growing different types of plants in the greenhouse.

"I'm growing mine with milk, but when I went in today there was mold," fifth-grader Luke Ruby said.

Gady's class is full of fun and excitement as the students try to finish the year strong.

"I've been teaching for 24 years and all of them have been at Freeman," said Gady who has also taught second through fourth grades in previous years. His class shows proof of his days teaching younger students with his occasional candy treats or his Mr. And Mrs. Potato head toys you see.

"I like the candy awards," his student Tate Waite said.

But aside from just teaching, Gady has also been a sports coach for years.

"When I graduated high school, I helped coach basketball, and it showed me that I loved working with kids," Gady explained.

The last teacher who is in charge of fifth grade this year is Bickler.

"It's a lot of fun in Mrs. Bickler's class," Ellie Roibat said.

"Fifth grade is my favorite curriculum," Bickler said when asked why she chose her job. "I love kids and I love to learn."

Bickler's class is always alive with energy and a creative aura.



Photo by Matthew Gilbertson  
Joey Lynn and Ian Moser playing around in Mrs. Bickler's class.



Photo by Matthew Gilbertson  
Some students working on an art project in Mr. Gady's class.



Photo by Matthew Gilbertson

Mrs. Brune helps students with writing during class.

## Sixth grade takes the middle school by storm!

By Isaac Stokoe  
Staff Writer

Jim Rae is a distinguished teacher in the Freeman Middle School, not only for his wit and sense of humor, but also for the fact that kids love him, and he is a great teacher. He started at Freeman in 1994 at the age of 24. Who was his inspiration to become a teacher? It was his high school forestry teacher at Rogers High, Mr. Neel.

"I liked his teaching and kids would attend the class just because he was such a good teacher and nice guy," Rae explained.

Not only has Rae been working diligently for so long, but throughout that time he has won over the hearts and minds of the spirited youths that he's teaching.

"He's hilarious," sixth-grader Aidan Murdoch said.

His stories of his crazy childhood, and funny sayings stick with his students, both current and present.

"This class is the wind beneath my wings," Rae is known to say, or "This isn't girl scout camp! Ain't nobody babysitting you!"

Through everything from his personality to his sense of humor, Rae provides his students with a positive and uplifting environment that is much needed to teach energetic sixth-graders. Every day, they leave his classroom with a smile and with a brighter day because of his superior knowledge that is so graciously gifted to them.

In 1994, a rivalry that would best the



Photo by Isaac Stokoe  
Jim Rae helps a student with her math assignment.

What is her message to Ray when it comes to their class rivalry?

"Bring it on!" Mega said. "I'm proud of my students, and I love our rivalry."

"We are definitely better than Mr. Rae's class!" sixth-grader Hailey Davis added proudly.

Mega is a well-known and very much appreciated teacher in the sixth-grade; her students look up to her and respect her.

"Ms. Mega is the best teacher in the world!" students Jeremy Dervaes and Brock Barratt said. "We have both been to a lot of schools, and she's the best teacher we have met yet."

She enjoys teaching middle school students because they can understand and comprehend sarcasm and yet an intelligent conversation can still be had with them.

"I love it because they are just starting to understand the world," Mega said. "They can challenge themselves and one another, me included."

"She's an awesome teacher and we are really an outstanding class," Maia Boyd said.

Teaching for so long and being a parent has brought both patience and wisdom that she installs into the classroom. Her knowledge leads the kids through both the school year and most definitely follows them through life.

"I knew from an early age that I wanted to be either a teacher or Tinker Bell," explained Mega. "Then, I realized that Tinker Bell was taken."

Because Tinker Bell was unachievable, a teacher arose from

Chuck Norris— the ashes of life like a phoenix and aspired to inspire greatness in children in the Freeman community.

Bruce Lee rivalry was born. Linda Mega believes in and tells her students.

And yet, just when we thought the sixth grade would not have any more surprises, Ann Romey stepped in as a new sixth-grade teacher in the 2013-2014 school year. After ten years of teaching, Romey assumed the ultimate and perilous position as sixth-grade teacher in between Rae and Mega's classroom.

"I love teaching sixth grade partly because we are lucky enough to keep our sixth graders in their own area to grow, listen, and learn from the seventh and eighth graders," Romey said. "It gives the sixth-graders a chance to see what it will be like to switch classes, learn to be organized for six periods a day, and grow as a middle school students. Sixth-graders have a generosity and kindness that is fun to watch grow as they continue to get older. I like watching them take on leadership roles and assisting each other in class. It's a great adventure!"

Indeed it is an adventure! Many of us may not remember what it was like to be a sixth-grader with a greatly inquisitive and quick witted mind,, but if you do you might remember that the teacher helped to set the mood for a positive environment just as Romey does.

"I really enjoy teaching middle school!" Romey added. "I get to see the growth happen from sixth grade to when they are eighth graders, it's pretty awesome! I also have the privilege of teaching with some amazing group of professional teachers! The class rivalry also makes me smile! I have great co-workers!"



Photo by Isaac Stokoe

Students in Ms. Mega's class stop their arts and crafts to pose for a silly picture.



Photo by Isaac Stokoe

Linda Mega helps her students build things out of paper.





Photo by Taylor Walker

Mrs. Boyd and her students are laughing while she makes learning fun.



Photo by Taylor Walker

Mrs. Hawley is hard at work grading her students' papers.



Photo by Taylor Walker

Mrs. Boyd works in a small group with her students.

Special education teachers help students find success in the classroom

By Bram Schweiger and Taylor Walker  
Staff Writers

One of the toughest school jobs around is special education. Dealing with a different kid with unique needs every day is a tough task to do and always commands energy for the job. Each special education teacher has a kind and patient quality to him or her and is always ready to help students learn.

Dani Boyd is an elementary school teacher who has been teaching special education for about three years. Boyd and Dan Dodge, the other elementary special education teacher, have to teach a wide variety of students and ages. Boyd explained that she didn't always want to teach special education.

"When I was in college, I got a degree to teach general education, then decided to get a dual major because I knew it would be hard to get a job," Boyd said. "I was hired as a special education teacher and fell in love with it."

The middle school special education teacher is Katie Hawley. She has been teaching for five years. As a middle school teacher, she has to deal with moody kids all day each with a unique need to learn. Her unique qualities of caring and patience are what allow her help these kids every day like the other teachers in special education.

"My favorite thing about teaching special education is seeing students make progress," Hawley explained. "It's so rewarding after the hard work me and the kids both put in to their studies."

The two high school special-ed teachers have a big job because they have to help the kids that have a hard time understanding school pass every class so they can graduate. Also when every kid has so many classes with different varieties of math, science, and English, AnneMarie Ophus and Scott Carolan have so much responsibility.

"I didn't always want to teach special education," 10-year veteran Ophus said. "I actually was interested in teaching history but I knew it would be hard to move into a position at Freeman so I got my requirements for special education. I am so happy now because I love it. It's like a new challenge for me, I love making a kid that hates school making it work for him."

Ophus and Carolan work together to meet the needs of high school students whether in the learning center or in their regular classes.

These teachers put in so many challenging hours every day to help students who need help with school work. It is one of the hardest jobs to take on and have so much respect for these teachers.

Humor a recipe to success for Hatch and Poindexter

By Madi Groves  
Editor

Two of the funny and entertaining teachers we have in the Freeman middle School are Kristi Hatch and Mindy Poindexter. They bring awesome things into their classrooms that teach the students great goals to help them in the future. They teach their students what they need to learn while also making the classroom environment fun.

Hatch is the seventh and eighth-grade math teacher who makes her class worth taking. This year, some of the things the students have been learning include exponents, Pythagorean Theorem, geometry, exponential functions- or, as the kids said, hard math. Hatch's students have been reaching their targets and goals that they set for themselves. Also, they have been meeting all of Washington's Common Core Standards in math. The students work hard every day so that they can meet the state standards in math and be prepared for the state tests.

"I like imparting a wealth of mathematical knowledge into the young gifted minds of today's youth," Hatch said.

The kids all love Hatch, especially "the sense of humor that she has," eighth-grader Brandon Iris explained. They love how she's always sarcastic, and how she is always laughing. The kids also shared many funny moments and some great fun memories this year, including when eighth-grader Annika Briggs tripped classmate Jimmy Sells during class, when eighth-grader Garret Williamson put

five pencils in the ceiling, the random screaming that Hatch always does, and when Hatch dressed up as Winnie the Pooh.

Also down in the middle school is seventh and eighth-grade science teacher Poindexter. So far this year, they have learned about earthquakes, volcanos, cells, and how to do classification of objects.

"When learning about earthquakes, they made earthquake-proof houses," Poindexter explained. "They also did a pizza lab to learn about different types of cells."

One of the students' most favorite labs was a rock lab where they made different kinds of rocks out of chocolate chips. The students like the food labs so much because they usually get to end up eating the food at the end.

"In middle school, no two days are ever exactly alike, that's what I like so much about teaching," Poindexter said.

In Poindexter's room, she has a variety of animals that the students are able to play with. She has turtles, lizards, a tarantula, and a bunch of insects. These animals allow the students to be able to interact with them while learning science at the same time.

The



Photo by Madi Groves

Mrs. Hatch acting cool while hanging out with some math students

things the students said that they like about Poindexter is that she has good outside knowledge about everything and that she knows a lot about science, so it makes her a great teacher. Just like in Hatch's class, Poindexter's class also had some fun memories. Some of those were the science fair, and when kids fall out of their chairs. Another favorite one within a group of eighth-grade boys of Garret Williamson, Garrett Trevino, Tyler Waite and Jimmy Sells is when they recited the whole Forest Gump shrimp scene during class.

As we can tell all of the kids really love their science and math teachers, and enjoy learning from them, and love all the great memories that come out of taking their classes.



Photo by Madi Groves

Tyler Waite, Kori Thurman, and Abby Ofenloch work really hard on trying to finish their crossword assignment.



Photo by Madi Groves

Turtles are just some of the animals that are in Mrs. Poindexter's class.



## Mr. Straw

I remember when two years ago, I came in from Maine, and I did not know what to do with you. One minute, you were a nice guy, and the next minute, you were Captain Blood the Pirate. When I got out of 8th grade, I thought that I got rid of you.

When I walked into the high school and found out that you were the principal, I had to laugh. Now it's almost six weeks before school is out and I had a great time this year. You have helped me learn the ropes and chewed me out when I need it. So as the school year ends, I am happy to know you for two years of school. I hope that you come back next year and have a great summer. See you in ISS soon.

Your Juvenile Delinquent Protégé,  
Gideon Martin

## Mrs. Hamma

As many know, up at Freeman High School, we are lucky enough to have such an amazing, hardworking, and understanding guidance counselor- Mrs. Hamma. There is not enough time or space to share my gratitude for her. Mrs. Hamma puts in countless hours to ensure each and every one of us have the schedule and year we so desire, and will do what she can to make it happen. This year has been full of curveballs for Mrs. Hamma, experiencing some of that first hand with her: she has done anything and everything in her power to help students and families. With her uplifting personality and helping hands, she has made my years at Freeman better than I ever could have asked for. On our final stretch of the 2013-2014 year, I just wanted to say... thank you Mrs. Hamma for always being supportive, encouraging, generous, and so very, very helpful. You are such a wonderful person inside and out. I cannot express how thankful I am, and so many others are for you and all your hard work and effort that you dedicate to Freeman. Thank you again, have a wonderful summer- you deserve it.

Love,  
Mia Angelis

## Mr. Davis

Mr. Davis, his name alone carries a lot of weight around Freeman as one of the strictest teachers. After taking 3 years of his classes I have learned that he is not always that strict teacher. He never fails to say, "Hi, how is your day?" and gives you a high five while walking past him in the hallway, or allows you to have another day to do your homework because you were swamped with all the other AP classes. I appreciate everything Mr. Davis has taught me throughout my three years in his classes. Most importantly, he taught me that I know everything, and he knows nothing.

Love,  
Abbie Pintar

## Mrs. Garcia

Remember when we sang, "Will you teach me?" at our very first choir concert of the year? I remember the concert so well! It was exciting for me to start at a new school, but it was also painful and hard, and I often had a hard time of letting go of what I had left behind.

In life, I have found a passion for music. Through choir, we are given the opportunity to share these alike passions. As I went to the choir room every day, I had the opportunity to let my worries free, and moving wasn't so difficult after all. That tender mercy of singing every day has changed my life.

I'm grateful to you for the way you teach all the levels of music. From elementary to high school, you have been phenomenal at adjusting to the needs of all groups as a whole, at different levels.

I'm also grateful for your patience. Holding only chemistry assignments is definitely something only a thoughtful and PATIENT person would do, and I am grateful to you for that!

I also love the way you keep things "Happy!" in class. You do your best to relate to each problem and solve it in a positive, happy way.

You are wonderful and I am SO grateful. I can't say thank you enough.

One of my favorite memories of you is when you showed us how to 'head rock' like a rocker, and your hair flailed everywhere! That was impressive! But most of all, I'm grateful for the way you taught me how to love, with love from God above. You have taught me and exemplified real love to all people, no matter who they are. This reminds me of the time you were so dedicated to the Rockford Lion's performance, an opportunity for us to reach out and "share the love".

You have also taught me to love my choir; love for every individual, but also for the unique experience I have had singing in the Freeman Encore Choir.

And finally, you have increased in me a love for music and a desire to gain a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education to be a music teacher, just like you! I'm grateful for that because it is a life altering decision that I know will make me very happy.

Love always,  
Addy Clark

## Mrs. Wells

Thank you for all the hard work you do at Freeman, teaching Geometry, Pre-Calculus and AP-Calculus. For all the time you've put in giving help to those who need a better understanding of the math you teach. I appreciate all of the extra time and patience you've given towards my better understanding of Geometry. I know that must be almost impossible sometimes, but you are always willing to see through any doubt. I hope that we can all realize that a day without math is a day without sunshine.

Sincerely,  
Devin Pavlischak

## Mrs. O'Connor

I can't express how much I appreciate everything you do, not only for me but for our school. Ever since I came to Freeman, I've felt so out of place. Without you and all the other staff that have been so generous and kind, I don't know how I could have made it through the year. I don't know how you could put up with so many teenagers without blowing up but you've always been so kind to everyone.

Love,  
Marissa Nelson

"Be kind and 'try hard'" two rules that I have learned to love over the years. Your class, without a doubt, has been anything but boring and uneventful. You have taught me a limitless amount of life lessons; although, most importantly, you have never given up on me. I appreciate you always being there for me. After failing a test more than twice and thinking there was no point in trying anymore, you told me to keep on keeping on. I will never forget your goofy laugh, or bubbly personality, or your constant love for each and every one of your students. I'll miss you next year in college! Thank you so much Mrs. O'Connor.

Sincerely,  
Natalie Kestell



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Thank you teachers!

Expression through history and CA

By Monite Potter  
Staff Writer

Students in the middle school do many different types of projects throughout the whole year and most of the projects are fun and interesting to the students.

“We do a different project every quarter so they do posters, PowerPoints, and design web pages,” history teacher Kelly Neely said. “Next, we are doing a civil war journal.”

Working hard and respect are usually the main things teachers expect from all students. They expect this because it shows what they can do and that they can truly be nice to other students.

“Work hard and be respectful,” seventh-grade CA teacher Jerry King said. “I usually get one of the two.”

CA is a class many students can enjoy. The teacher of the class also tries they’re best to make it more enjoyable for each of the students.

“Mr. King gives us candy if we get a 100% on a save test,” seventh-grader Savannah Lindsley said. “Also our all about me boxes that were fun to be able to make.”

Teachers enjoy watching their students grow up in their classrooms and get better at what they do like book reports and tests.

“My favorite parts of teaching are trying new things, reading students responses, and seeing them make progress over time,” the eighth-grade CA teacher Samantha Fletcher said.

For students to be able to express themselves, it can become more efficient in their school work.

“I enjoyed presenting my book report,” eighth-grader Jimmie Pierce said. “I enjoy it because I get to express myself.”

Somestudentsenjoyreadinganddiscussingbookswiththeclassasa



Photo by Monite Potter

Samantha Fletcher helping her student Maddy Williams with classwork that she did not understand.

whole. They enjoy doing this more because to them it could be more useful and much more easily understandable than on their own.

“Reading and discussing *And Then There Were None*,” eighth-grader Nathan Longhurst said was his favorite CA activity this year. “It was a pretty good book and we have had good discussions as to who the killer is and why also just trying to solve the mystery.”



Photo by Monite Potter

Two of Fletcher’s students raise their hands to ask a question about what they are going over that day.



Photo by Monite Potter

Kelly Neely sees what problems Dillon Passey had with his assignment.

Thank you teachers!

15

The art of photography

By Derek Smith  
Staff Writer

Photography is a subject that many of us overlook at times, but it is a subject where you can express yourself in ways that others may not know about. There are many of different ways to express yourself during photography such as taking pictures of things that you’re interested in. Photography teaches students how to understand still objects like a sunset over wheat field in the middle of July, or to catch an action shot of the Scotties catching a touchdown for the win!

“This class has helped me express myself through pictures, it makes me smile when I get a good picture,” seventh-grader Joey Isaac said.

Photography is also fun! They get to go outside and enjoy the fresh air while still learning about everything that photography has to offer.

“We go outside a lot and have specific tasks (types of pictures) to take: action, flowers, rule of thirds, and close-ups,” photography teacher Denise Briggs explained.

The students love how fun Briggs makes the class. They enjoy going outside and taking every kind of the pictures that their teacher assigns. They also enjoy this class because it’s not only fun, but it’s a possible career opportunity.

“I kind of want to be an underwater photographer because there are a lot of different sea stuff that I have never seen before,” said Hartlee Storro

“I would want to take pictures of dogs,” seventh-grader Ryan Palting said. “They’re funny, fun, and they have some really cute and hilarious faces.”

This isn’t just a class. This is an art, an art filled with good-hearted and determined students driven by a wonderful teacher! Thank you Mrs. Briggs!



Photo by Derek Smith

Isabel Miller gets at an angle to take a picture of the floor.



Photo by Derek Smith

The students do their daily warm ups before they start their games.

Running and Jumping for Freeman P.E.

By Derek Smith  
Staff Writer

PE is a class that most students look forward to. Why is that? Is it because they know that there isn’t going to be homework after, or is it because they just enjoy being physically active? Well, the middle school PE class that is taught by Jessica McWilliams is not only fun, but it teaches the students how to interact with each other. McWilliams doesn’t just teach games to the students; she also teaches sportsmanship.

“Mrs. McWilliams shows us the games or activities if we don’t know how to do them, but also teaches sportsmanship,” eighth-grader Kelsie Peery said.

This class is well-taught by a very nice teacher that is always there for her students. When they are trying their hardest, that’s when McWilliams will be there to cheer you on and assure you that you can do things that your mind might not always think you can do.

“The best part about this class is having a teacher who cheers me on and makes me happy,” eighth-grader Arieanna Hoisington explained.

McWilliams is also a very helpful teacher through academics as well as PE.

“She gives us extra credit and study time,” eighth-grader Connor Fuchs said.

PE is a class that most of us enjoy for whatever reason it may be. But, McWilliams definitely knows how to run a PE class. She is a wonderful teacher and loves what she does! Thank you Mrs. McWilliams; you deserve the best.



## Speiring has heart for art

By Preston Hoppman  
Staff Writer

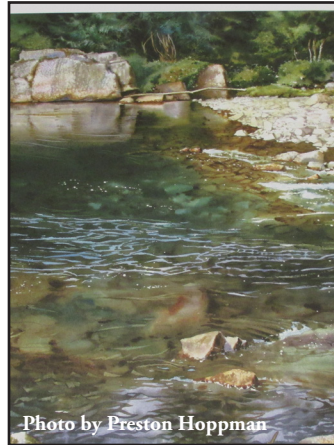


Photo by Preston Hoppman

Nature is a constant source of inspiration for Spiering.



Photo by Preston Hoppman

A fun game of fetch is captured in Spiering's work.

Ken Spiering isn't a stranger to the Freeman Community. His art has been featured in numerous art galleries such as his painting of Riverfront Park. This painting is one of his most famous portraits because of the beautiful water work he did and also painting the buildings in the background perfectly spot on.

Freemans senior Brady Unfred loves Spiering's art; in fact, he likes it so much that he had Spiering draw up his tattoo.

"I think it's amazing what he can do in even short periods of time," Unfred explained. "It was awesome and better than I expected."

Spiering has designed some pretty impressive sculptures. A sculpture most of us know is the red wagon slide in Riverfront Park. It has been known world round that it's the biggest wagon in the world.

"Mr. Spiering's art is amazing," senior Robbie McClure explained. "I have the best time working with him and also getting great help from him."

McClure loves the fact that Unfred went to Spiering for his tattoo.

"Spiering did a great job on Brady's tattoo with every detail," McClure said. "I would also go to Mr. Spiering for my tattoo if I ever got one."

Sophomore Carlee Magers loves the atmosphere of Spiering's art class.

"Spiering's art leaves me speechless," Magers explained. "He has taught me so much with my art skills and also has inspired me to become a great artist."

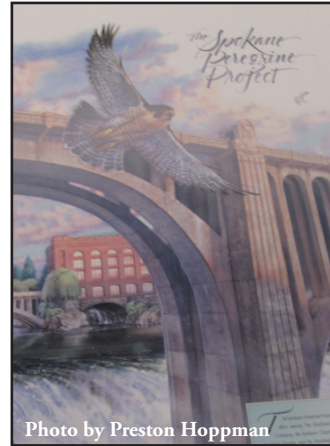


Photo by Preston Hoppman

Spiering's painting of the falls at Riverfront Park.



Photo by Preston Hoppman

The details in Spiering's water-colors bring this still to life.

## Don't miss annual Heart and Soul fundraiser!

Join us for our Spring Art Festival, *Art & Soul*, a celebration of Artists and the Arts. It will be at Freeman High School, S. 14626 Jackson Rd., south on Hiway 27 about one mile south of the intersection of SR 27 and the Palouse Hiway. Date and times are Thurs. May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6-8:30. Admission is \$5.00/\$20.00 family, and modest charges to participate in a variety of art activities – we're raising money for the support of the arts, specifically the visual arts, for the purchase of materials, equipment and supplies to augment our annual budget.

Mario DeLeon--up-and-coming graffitti artist, Gina Freuen—Gon-

zaga University faculty and ceramic sculptor who will be demonstrating wheel throwing, and Don Audelmaster at building hot rods and at car pin striping - are all guest artists demonstrating and talking about their work. Also we'll have a live auction featuring original artwork by Steve Adams, Harold Balazs, Kay O'Rourke, Gordon Wilson, Mel McCuddin, Larry Montgomery, FHS parents and well known Northwest artists Deb & Jason Sheldon, nationally acclaimed artist Ric Gendron and Ken Spiering. Our gifted auctioneer will be Don Henderson, working his magic.

Also we'll have a show and sale

of original artwork by some of the above artists as well as student art show and sales. Live music performances by Freeman students under the direction of Danette Garcia from 6:15 to 7:05 and then from 7:50 to 8:10 with the live auction during intermission.

This fourth annual *Art & Soul* celebration of the arts is fast becoming a defining art event for the Greater Spokane area that you won't want to miss!

For information contact:  
**Ken Spiering**  
kspiering@freemansd.org  
509 291-3721 Ext.206

## Pitch perfect Freeman melodies flow from the band room

By Isaiah Crane  
Editor

Walking down the hall near the locker rooms, you can almost always hear the sweet sounding voices of the Freeman Scotties choir or the spectacular acting of one of the middle school plays. Led by Danette Garcia, the students learn to advance their skills in singing or fine tune their acting skills.

"This is my ninth year teaching choir and drama in the Freeman School District," Garcia said. "Prior to teaching at Freeman, I taught HS choir and beginning band for five years and was a private piano teaching for many years."

"She's taught me a lot about music theory and reading music, not just singing," junior Addy Clark said. "She has a really big heart."

If you walk down the hall or listen to announcements, you've most likely heard of upcoming Choir Concerts or plays.

"Each concert is unique and has several favorite moments; therefore, I don't have a favorite concert," Garcia explained. "The upcoming End-of-the-Year concert will be a lot of fun as each choir gets to select at least one contemporary song to perform. As far as drama, I enjoyed working with the MS drama class first semester. They did a good job performing *The Villain Wore a Dirty Shirt*. I am hoping that this semester's group of students will do just as well performing *Robin Hood*."



Photo by Isaiah Crane

Freeman Middle School Choir warming up

By Isaiah Crane  
Editor

If any of you have a PE class or play a sport, you've walked by the band room on your way to the locker rooms. And on that walk, you've probably heard the sweet music that the Freeman Scotties band is playing. And the person in charge of teaching and developing those skills to her students is Carol Wichmann.

"I have been teaching drama and band here at Freeman for the last three years," Wichmann said. "I have been teaching music in public schools for 14 years. Before I came to Freeman, I taught music and math."

"Drama is really fun," sophomore Peyton Smetana said. "Getting to step out of my norm and taking on a new personality is very exciting."

To be a teacher you need to love what you do and love your students.

"I love teaching and spending time with my awesome students," Wichmann said. "Drama and band are a little different from some subjects because the performance (the product) is based on both individual and group effort. So, the quality of



Photo by Isaiah Crane

Scotties band rehearsing a song.

the final performance is based on the level of each individual performer and their co-operation and work together as a group."

There are about 30 students in both band and drama classes at the high school, with more at the middle school.

"The last three years, Freeman has been recognized as a "Gold Medal Standard" Marching Band by the Lilac Parade Association," Wichmann said. "We focus on precision- precision in marching and precision in playing our street tunes."

Freeman takes pride in its band and drama departments. It's our pride and joy.



Photo by Isaiah Crane

Freeman High School band practicing for their Lilac Torchlight Parade performance



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Thank you teachers!

CTE teachers bring real world into the classrooms

By Chaz Halstead  
Staff writer

Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes are a very important part of our school system because they give real job experiences. We currently have two full-time CTE teachers, Scott Moore teaching yearbook and business education classes, and Jim Wood with metal shop and woodshop classes.

These classes may seem unimportant to some because they are not considered a top priority for college admissions, but they give kids a chance to apply the skills that they learn in school to real world applications. The experiences that the students gain from these classes can help them get a job and enter a career right out of high school, if they choose.

“I hope that the students come out of my classes with the skills to create a job for themselves or go on to a higher education in a tech field,” Wood said.

Wood was first interested in teaching CTE classes because he wanted to be able to give kids technical education while still in high school, so they would have the skills to pursue a career and support a family if needed.

“I felt that there was a lot of potential and talent from kids that weren’t planning on going to four year schools,” Wood ex-

plained. “These kids could get jobs and be very essential to the work force.”

One of Wood’s students, Matt Angelis, has chosen a career path because of the shop classes that Wood teaches. He has excelled at welding and fabrication. This has allowed him to get jobs in this field and gain experience towards the career that he wants to pursue while still in High School.

Angelis is a perfect example of what CTE classes are there for— he found something that he really enjoys doing while still in high school and is already planning his future. The classes that he took will give him a head start after he graduates.

“I learned to work with others productively, problem solve, and get experience with real jobs,” Angelis said.



Photo courtesy of Scott Moore

Moore with his FBLA national competitors at the 2013 conference in Anaheim, California.

also give great job opportunities and experience.

“I enjoy the idea of teaching material that students can see immediate relevancy with, such as using technology, money management, organization, time management, resumes, applications,” Moore said. “I don’t mean to put down any of the classes, but when you get out in the real world, these skills are essential for success.”

Moore teaches many classes that teach kids to get comfortable with computer programs and layout. These skills are beyond important in the business world and are becoming more and more essential. The ability to use technology is a door to unlimited amounts of jobs, and Moore is making sure that kids know much more than just the basics.

Along with giving kids an advantage in the technological world, Moore runs Freeman’s FLBA chapter, teaching kids to understand business. He is an incredibly involved leader, always making time for people and answering questions. He has several kids competing at the state and national levels in FBLA every year and helps all of them find a career path that they are interested in.

Overall, Moore and Wood both wanted to teach CTE classes for high school students to help them prepare for the outside world. They give job experience to kids every day and are both greatly appreciated among the Freeman students.



Photo by Chaz Halstead

Wood helps a student tack weld a bench.

Thank you teachers!

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English teachers work hard for students

By Katie Ophus and Taylor Walker  
Staff Writers

Our Freeman English department does a lot at for its students. We learn English all through school, but once you hit seventh-grade you get a designated English teacher. We have three high school English teachers at FHS, offering a variety of classes. Our teachers work really hard by teaching the best they can while also following the state’s and Common Core requirements.

“Common Core hits a lot of great skills but is sometimes restricting,” Pre-AP English teacher Anne-Marie Ophus said.

Ophus teaches a variety of topics including writing, grammar, spelling, and she has many different books she presents to the class. Ophus is currently working on the writing process with her students while reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

“We are working on writing a well-developed essay about how to kill a mockingbird,” freshman Helen Foreman said.

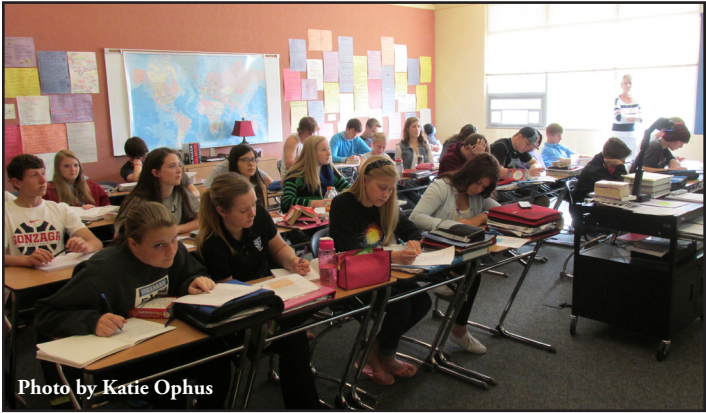


Photo by Katie Ophus

Anne-Marie Ophus working hard with her freshman Pre-AP class.

Another one of our wonderful English teachers at Freeman is Pia Longinotti. She teaches Freshman English, Sophomore English, and Journalism.

“This is my thirteenth year as an English teacher at Freeman,” Longinotti shared. “I subbed for two years before that. I hadn’t always planned on becoming an English teacher. I really wanted to be an archeologist, then planned on studying medicine to become a pediatrician when I started high school. I realized I wanted to become an English teacher before my sophomore year of college.”

Longinotti’s experiences working as a camp counselor showed her that teaching was her future.

“I ended up majoring in English,” Longinotti explained. “I liked the idea of sharing my passion for reading and writing with high school students who didn’t exactly feel the same way. I enjoy bringing back the joy they had in elementary school for reading.”

Constantly having a book report, vocab test, essay, or journalism article to work on, Longinotti always has her hands full, but is still willing to help

students if they need extra help.

“I like Ms. Longinotti’s class,” freshman Isaiah Walker said. “It’s kind of ‘punny’.”

Kathryn O’Connor is our other English teacher for eleventh and twelfth grade. O’Connor teaches Junior English, Senior English and AP English, as well as the new English 101. English 101 is new

to the school but she is doing a great job teaching it. English 101 requires you to take a test and get accepted into the class. When you do get accepted in the class, you get a college credit through Central Washington University along with your high school credit.

“I loved the novels in the junior English class, but I also like the argumentation in my AP Language composition class,” O’Connor said.

English teachers do a lot for our school and the students, and make sure that they do their best to help the students do their best and pass there required English class.



Photo by Katie Ophus

Junior Eugene Paulis working on his outside reading in Longinotti’s fourth period class.



Photo by Katie Ophus

Kathryn O’Connor teaching *The Crucible*.



# Freeman High School’s history teachers give their students a new appreciation for the past

By Ali Tesch  
Editor

Freeman High School has an exemplary history and civics department. It offers several classes including US History, AP US History, Politics and Economics, World History, World Religion, and Senior Civics. These classes prepare students to be useful citizens and allow students to pursue what they are passionate about. Although we are very fortunate to have these classes, we must thank Kenny Davis, Mike Thacker, and Christy Longhofer for being incredible teachers. Each teacher brings students unique learning opportunities from public speaking to learning about the world around them.

Kenny Davis has been teaching history at Freeman for 34 years. During this time, Davis has made a huge impact at FHS, giving students a new appreciation for history. Currently, Davis’ AP History class is preparing to go on a field trip to Sandpoint.

“I want to give students appreciation of history because when they get older, I want them to still love history,” Davis explained.

Freshman to seniors enjoy taking history classes because they have two amazing teachers who take their responsibility seriously. They apply their unique teaching techniques to each class in order to create a fun learning environment. Freeman students appreciate each teacher for making their school experience better.

“During the 34 years I have worked at Freeman, I have had ups

and downs, but 95% of those are up and only 5% of them are down,” Davis said. “That is a great place to be.”

Several freshmen are taking Davis’ US History and each one of them are enjoying it. They have covered everything from the Roaring 20’s to current events. US History has also completed several interesting projects including researching the Holocaust and other major events in history.

“Davis Makes history a great class by always being willing to work around conflicts and others schedules,” freshman Bradley Williams said.

This year Freeman underwent a huge change as beloved teacher Mike Thacker retired, and we welcomed our newest staff member Christy Longhofer to Freeman. This has been a great change to our staff. Longhofer has brought new and creative ways to educate stu-

dents about the world around them.

Although we gained an incredible new teacher, Thacker will still be missed. Thacker taught several classes at Freeman, but not a single class was boring. Students miss Thacker’s quotes, debates, and fun projects, including the stock project.

“I will miss all of Thacker’s quotes and his debates,” senior Josiah Thompson explained.

Longhofer is teaching several classes including Civics, Politics and Economics, and US History. Each class is working on a unique project. US History just made World War II posters to express what students have been learning. The Senior Civics class is making brochures highlighting monumental Supreme Court cases that changed America’s history as we know it.

“I love that Freeman is a small school this allows me to get to know everybody,” Longhofer explained.

Freeman is such a tight-knit community that even teachers have great experiences working at Freeman. Longhofer has one interesting experience. When Longhofer was a high school student, she had Peggy Wells for math and now she gets to work with her as a teacher.

“Right now we are learning about key Supreme Court cases, and it’s very interesting,” senior Nolan Laabs said.

Although our history department underwent several changes, they are still running strong. Our history department opened many doors for students, allowing them to learn about our Nation’s past and current events; learning these events allows students to be useful citizens. Although Freeman provides many classes, we could not have these wonderful classes without our dedicated teachers. Next time you walk through your classroom door, remember to thank your teacher for all his or her hard work.



Photo credit Ali Tesch

Zeck Flack pays attention while Mrs. Longhofer teaches the class.



Photo credit Ali Tesch

Students work hard on their assignment during class

# PE is keeping Freeman fit

By Taylor Walker  
Staff Writer

“I’ve been working as a PE teacher for 25 years altogether,” Scott Carolan shared. “I’ve worked at Freeman for 20 years. I hadn’t always planned on becoming one, but I really loved coaching, and then I had to become an educator as well.”

Carolan has been teaching freshmen Health and P.E. classes for a long time and has had an effect on many kids.

“He is a really fun teacher,” freshman Hayley Damon shared. “I like that he does stuff with us, unlike how some other PE teachers just tell you what to do and then don’t do anything. I just don’t like running the mile.”

Having a teacher who joins in and participates is something that really sticks out to students, and Freeman is fortunate enough to have two PE teachers that both do that.

“I have been a PE teacher for 12 years,” Chad Ripke said. “I always knew that I wanted to be one and was highly influenced by my elementary PE teacher. My older brother also went to school to become one, and I wanted to follow in his footsteps because he is someone I look up to.”

A common thing our two PE teachers share is a love for coaching and seeing their

influences on kids’ lives. Carolan coached softball for 14 years, and Ripke has coached football for 11 years, wrestling for 14 years, and baseball for 16 years.

“I really like Ripke’s class,” senior Haley Burke explained. “It’s a really laid back and fun class, and I enjoy it because I enjoy sports so much. Ripke is also really friendly with all of the students, and you can tell he enjoys being around us all.”

Coaching and teaching are both reasons why these two teachers love their jobs, but sometimes there are moments that stand out even more than others.

“My most memorable teaching moment is that when I worked in the Resource Room, I had an unhappy teen with not the best upbringing who struggled almost every day,” Carolan shared. “Now, he is about to get married, he was able to graduate, and he thanks me for my help every time that he sees me. It’s not really just the moment that impacted me; it’s more of the after effect and



Photo by Taylor Walker

Ripke is constantly taking care of the baseball field and making sure it’s ready for the next home game.

seeing how you could help.”

“My most memorable teaching moment is probably coaching all the kids,” Ripke shared. “I love seeing everything we’ve accomplished this year in football and wrestling. Four years ago, there were just six kids in the wrestling program and now we are fifth in state. So, I really just like seeing the kids and programs all grow.”

Over the years, these two teachers have affected many students’ lives and they are continuing to do so.



Photo by Taylor Walker

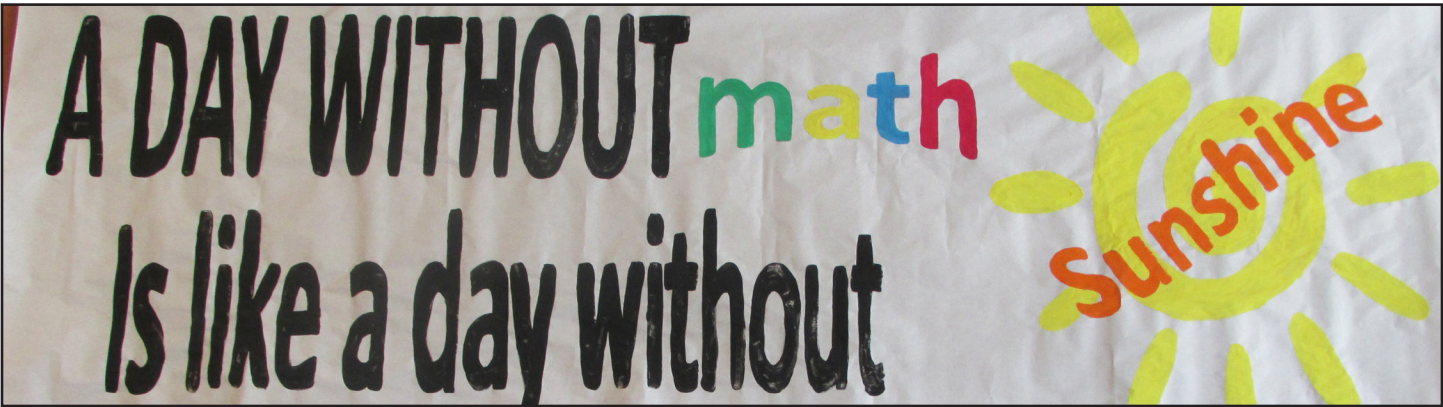
Ripke pauses for a picture with some of his baseball boys.



Photo by Taylor Walker

Mr. Carolan making sure everyone is here and ready for a fun day in PE.





By Jake Hansen  
Staff Writer

These men and women make up the real heroes of the Freeman community. They sacrifice flesh and mind to be here and teach math. They show the true American lifestyle, and true American compassion. Freeman offers many math classes, all of which benefit the students.

Applied Math, taught by Jim Wood, is a different type of math. It teaches math skills useful in everyday life, and in many work fields.

“I have never used calculus in my life,” Wood said. “I teach the math skill useful in everyday life.”

24 years ago, math teacher Peggy Wells joined the math teaching community, a strong, tight knit people, dedicated to the spread of their knowledge. Oddly enough, she was introduced by Scott Moore’s Dad, Ken Moore and many more other high school role models.

“I knew I wanted to work with kids, I just wasn’t sure in what capacity,” Wells explained.

Wells teaches Geometry, Essentials, Pre-calculus, and AP calculus. She not only loves the subject, but she also loves seeing the kids she teaches become something of themselves.

Gary More is a retiring math teacher that hasn’t been at Freeman very long but has been a teacher for many years.

“I’ve always enjoyed math and think of it as a relaxing game or puzzle,” More explained.

Even in the Navy, More taught math to some of his shipmates who were trying to get their GED, and later on in life, he tutored his sons. Although he would love to teach science, he has enjoyed math so much that he chose to stick with it.

All of the teachers live math. They love it, and they have spread large masses of their great math knowledge. Freeman is truly blessed to have such gifted math teachers. Thank you.



Photo by Jake Hansen

Gary More’s class is attentitively working on an assignment

High school’s science teachers may surprise you

By Ruby Falciani  
Editor

John Hays, the AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry, and Physics teacher, did in fact have a life before teaching. As students, we sometimes forget our teachers have lives and were kids once too. A few things you might not know about Hays is that we went to the University of Idaho and student-taught at Coeur d’Alene High School. At University of Idaho, he was actually planning on going into medicine, and then as school went on, he met his wife Nicky, and looked into a few other classes. He then found that he really enjoyed working with young people.

“The beauty of teaching here is that you’re not just teaching one subject-there is a bigger variety,” Hays explained.

Hays has been working at Freeman since 1984 when there were only 150 students in the school and about 35 kids per grade level. Another shocking fact is that he was the only science teacher! Since then, Hays has conquered more and is now the Knowledge Bowl and Conservation Club adviser, and the junior high football coach and the high school track coach. Finding time is an issue when he tries to plan all his events such as biking trips, backpacking, snowshoeing, and still wanting to give his classes the best education and experience. Hays said his favorite part about teaching is the students and being able to connect students with the great outdoors.

“I’ve always enjoyed the outdoors, and basically anything that has to do being outdoors,” Hays said.

It’s a flashback to freshman year for most of us here at Freeman when we think about Mike Allen. He’s our Physical Science and Algebra 1, and serves as an eighth-grade science teacher. Allen has had an extensive experience with colleges. He went to the Spokane Community College for his A.A., Eastern Washington for his B.S., and Lesley University for his M.A, as well as attending University of Puget Sound, Whitworth. He became a teacher because he wanted to have the same influence on kids that his great teachers had on him.

Allen’s favorite part of teaching is challenging students and being part of it and to watch their growth. As a teacher, there are many ups and downs, and for Allen, his concerns are feeling like he didn’t do enough when his students struggle to find success.

He started his career at Garfield Palouse Middle School and taught sixth through eighth-grade Physical, Life, and Earth Science, Yearbook, Home Economics, and video. Altogether, Allen has been working for 15 years and has spent six at Freeman.

Other than teaching, Allen coaches middle school cross country, wrestling, track, girls’ basketball, and high school wrestling as well as goes on backpacking trips with Mr. Hays.

Photos courtesy of CreativeCommons.com



## What's happening in our Spanish class

By Justyna Folsom  
Staff Writer

Lorraine Robinson, or Ms. R as most of her students call her, is a much-loved teacher at Freeman High School. Many of her students agree that just having Ms. R as a teacher is worth taking Spanish even though the class itself is very challenging.

"I love Ms. R!" junior Emma Sheldon said. "She makes Spanish, which is a hard class, fun to learn."

In Robinson's class, she likes to think of all her classes as families to try and make shy students more comfortable because speaking a new language can be very intimidating. Also, in order to encourage good behavior, Robinson has competitions between her classes. The reward for the winning class at the end of the semester is two movie days and the classes that lose get an extra worksheet for those two days.

"My most favorite thing to do in Ms. R's is watch movies in Spanish because it puts the language in real life," sophomore Michael Pierce said.

Students also love the games Robinson puts on such as Pictionary, verb races, around the world, king of the court, board games, Cranium, and the beach ball game.

"My favorite game is Pictionary because my family always gets really into it," Pierce explained.

Robinson is loved by everyone in the school. She has a regular group of kids who comes in at lunch and after school to just

hang out in her classroom to talk to her and ask her for advice.

"I like to hang out in Ms. R's room because she is just really cool, understanding, and easy to talk to," junior Hope Mathews said.

Robinson is not only loved by everyone, she loves her job.

"I totally love to teach!" Robinson said. "It's my favorite thing to do."



Photo courtesy of Lorraine Robinson.

Fifth period Spanish 2 celebrates the beginning of the year by having a fiesta.



Photo courtesy of Lorraine Robinson

Second period Spanish takes a family photo and proudly displays Ms. Robinson's giant frosted sprinkle donut.



Photo courtesy of Lorraine Robinson.

Sixth period poses for a candid family picture near the bike racks.



Photo courtesy of Lorraine Robinson.

Third period Spanish 2 poses for their family picture.