

Welcome Mr. Smith!

Jacob Harp, Grade 8

As many students may have noticed, Freedom Middle School has a new principal. Mr. Smith started working at the middle school at the beginning of the year as a temporary replacement for Mr. Hernandez, but soon got the permanent position. The School Board approved Mr. Smith as principal of Freedom Middle School at their meeting on September 1, 2016.

After graduating from the

University of Pittsburgh, Mr. Smith started teaching in the city of Pittsburgh as a high school math teacher at City Charter High School. This was a position that he held for two and a half years. Next, he was hired by our own Freedom Middle School as an eighth grade math teacher, and taught our eighth graders for four years. He then accepted a position as the Lead Teacher at F.M.S. and worked there for 18 months, before working at the High School as the Assistant Principal for 18 months. Finally, Mr. Smith started



A smiling Mr. Smith sits in his new office at Freedom Middle School.

working at Freedom Middle School as the Principal beginning on September 2, 2016.

Mr. Smith likes teaching because of the interaction and growth of students that he gets to experience. He likes Freedom because of the “close knit community, and our ability to create relationships”. Outside of school, Mr. Smith is married, and has a six-year-old son. He also has two dogs and two cats. He likes to golf, run, and bike. He says his most influential teacher was Dr. Wargo in High School, because of the motivating way he taught, and the real life skills Dr. Wargo gave him. His very first job was a lifeguard, but I’m sure we all hope he stays with his Middle School job as our principal.



FMS Staff surprised Mr. Smith with a banner and balloons on his first official day as our principal.

NEW FACES AT FREEDOM

MRS. MARBURGER



Josiah Dubovi, Grade 8

Mrs. Marburger is the new keyboarding teacher for 5th and 6th grade. She decided to join the middle school when Dr. Fuller recommended this job. Previously, she was a technology teacher at Freedom High School. Her first job was working at an ice cream stand in high school, to make some extra cash. Her favorite high school teacher was Mrs. Fletcher who was her English and Yearbook teacher.

Mrs. Marburger majored in Accounting at Robert Morris University. Of all things in teaching, Mrs. Marburger's favorite part is showing her students new things. In her opinion, the best part of Freedom is the friendly people. Mrs. Marburger has a son and daughter as well as three grandchildren whom she loves dearly. She also has four pet cats. These are all of the things you need to know (and more) about Mrs. Marburger. Don't forget to welcome her to Freedom Middle School.

MRS. MEYER



Emily Ostrowski, Grade 8

Mrs. Meyer is a new teacher for students grades 5 through 8. She is very dedicated to her job and loves helping kids learn. She went to Geneva College and majored in elementary and special education. Before coming to Freedom she taught at Beaver Falls, PA Cyber, Lifesteps and Beaver School District.

Mrs. Meyer says her first job was babysitting when she was younger, so she has a lots of experience with children. In her free time she enjoys reading and playing guitar, which she taught herself how to play. She lives with her husband and has no children or pets. Although she doesn't have any pets, she plans to get a dog in the future.

Her favorite teacher from her childhood was Mrs. Keneavy, who was her 2nd and 7th grade teacher. She favored her because she was creative and had fun ways for the kids to learn. Her favorite thing about our school so far is the kids, staff and other teachers. Freedom is beyond excited and appreciative to have Mrs. Meyer as a new part of our staff.

MS. GUNDLACH



Shawna Brown, Grade 8

From dietary aide to teaching aide to full time teacher, Ms. Gundlach has done it all. Ms. Gundlach has previously worked at Freedom for three years as a learning support aide. She also helped with the drama club program. She now has a full time job as a seventh grade learning support teacher. Ms. Gundlach says that her favorite thing about teaching is "helping students acquire new knowledge and grow".

Ms. Gundlach is highly educated and went to two different colleges. She attended Westminster College for her undergrad and went to Slippery Rock University for her master's degree. Her first job was in high school as a dietary aide in a nursing home.

Ms. Gundlach is extremely outdoorsy and her hobbies include kayaking and geocaching. She doesn't have any kids but she has three chickens and three cats. When asked what teacher inspired her the most, she says, Mrs. Bougher, her fourth grade teacher. She says that Mrs. Bougher was such a good teacher that she inspired her to become a teacher. Ms. Gundlach's favorite thing about our school is how supportive and overall great the students and staff are.

MRS. VANDECAR



Keith Pawlowski, Grade 8

Mrs. VanDeCar has certainly been around the block here at Freedom. She taught fourth grade and kindergarten at Conway Elementary, and learning support at both the high school and at Big Knob Elementary. Now, she is an eighth grade teacher here at the middle school.

Before coming to Freedom, Mrs. VanDeCar went to Slippery Rock University and has a Bachelor's degree in elementary and special education. She likes to read in her free time and enjoys following Pittsburgh's sports teams. She lives with her husband, her three daughters and her pets.



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OM MIDDLE SCHOOL

MRS. BOURQUE



Logan Bickerstaff, Grade 5

Mrs. Bourque is an aide for students in the fifth grade. She taught for 25 years at Freedom High School as an aide inside the art department, and for 3 years at the elementary school.

Mrs. Bourque got into teaching because she liked helping kids learn new things that they never knew before. Her first job was cleaning at an office where her dad worked. Her hobbies include bowling, dancing, and reading. Mrs. Bourque's family includes her husband, two daughters, and four grandchildren. Her favorite teacher was Sister Diolito. She also went to a Catholic school. Mrs. Bourque loves her job because she likes working with knowledge and with the teachers and the students.

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MR. ADDIS



Delta Daley, Grade 8

Mr. Addis is a student teacher for eighth grade U.S. History at Freedom Area Middle School. He is still in school and attends both Westminster College and Slippery Rock University. He applied to be a student teacher at Freedom and Mr. Kappas was kind enough to accept. His favorite things about teaching are the opportunities of working with all kinds of kids and the fact that he never stops learning. Mr. Addis has a degree in history and is working hard to get his major in education.

Mr. Addis's first job ever was at the Keystone Creamery. When he isn't working as a student teacher, he enjoys hiking and playing with his dog. His dog's name is Autumn and he also has a cat named Jags. He has a mom, dad, and brother. He says his favorite teacher growing up was Mr. Yanness. Mr. Addis says his favorite things about Freedom are that it's similar to where he grew up and that he feels a connection with the community.

MS. GOOD



Jacob DiCenzo, Grade 6

Ms. Good is an instructional aide for the sixth grade. She was an assistant preschool teacher, along with a tutor for students at risk at CCBC. Her favorite thing about teaching is when a student achieves something, despite their own beliefs.

Ms. Good went to college at CCBC and Penn State Beaver. Her major or degree is criminal justice, and she has a minor in social work. Her first job was at a RadioShack selling batteries. Her hobbies include spending time with her son, watching the Pirates baseball, and she enjoys yoga.

The teacher who impressed her the most, while in school, was Mr. Donald Mittner because he was her 5th grade teacher, and the coach for the high school football team. He impressed Ms. Good because whether he was teaching, or coaching, or just in the neighborhood, he was very supportive and inspirational. Her favorite thing about teaching at Freedom is how the 6th grade teachers work so well, and how helpful they are at welcoming the new teacher aides.

MISS BECK



Erin Harp, Grade 7

From hiking outside to being an aide at Freedom Middle School, Ms. Beck has experience in everything. Ms. Beck has just graduated, so she has no teaching background. She found this job online and applied to be an aide. She said that her favorite thing about helping the kids learn is working with them and seeing them progress or overcome something that they were having trouble with.

Ms. Beck graduated from Geneva College in May. She double-majored in psychology and human services. Even though most people have their first job at McDonalds or some other fast food restaurant, her first job was being a part of a therapeutic support staff.

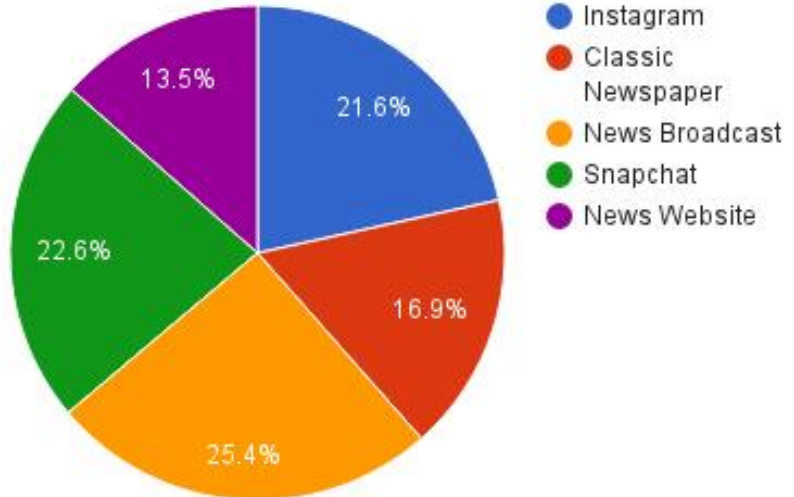
Ms. Beck's favorite activities span from hiking outside and conquering mountains to sitting in a window reading. Ms. Beck is not yet married but has her parents, three sisters, one brother and two nieces. Her favorite professor throughout her school career was her college professor Dr. Ryce. So far, her favorite part of working at Freedom is the overall atmosphere and all of the other teachers. A great welcome to Ms. Beck!

Want your art here?



Simply stop by Mr. Gregg's room and submit your comic entry for a chance to be featured in our very own Bulldog Barker! Remember to keep it funny and school appropriate!

Newspaper Media Survey Results



Contest: Design Our Banner

Do you have an artistic talent that you would love to share with our school? Do you love to design things for everyone to see? Then enter our banner design contest! The winning banner will be featured at the top of the next newspaper. Draw your banner in the box below and drop it off to the middle school office. Your drawing must meet the following requirements: it must fit in the box below, it must be black and white, and it must include the title *The Bulldog Barker*.

Name: _____

Grade: _____

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