Please ensure your scholars have an at-home environment that is conducive to learning. This means a quiet space, free of distractions, and all of their materials ready.

Please ensure your scholars are attending classes as attendance is taken daily.

Please ensure your scholars are submitting all of their assignments online.

If a student requires any support, please be sure to reach out to your teachers or advisors. We know online learning is very challenging, and we are here to support you throughout the school year.

Greetings Freedom Prep Community,

Welcome to another school year with us! We are excited to be honoring the culture of many of our students and their families by celebrating Latinx Heritage Month. This month gives people a chance to consider the Latinx presence in history, and raises conversations about the current climate. Through various advisory activities and town halls, students will have opportunities to explore Latinx history, contributions to society, and celebrate our vibrant culture. Also this month, we have an adventurous Virtual Scavenger Hunt planned, as well as a Netflix Halloween Movie Night! While we continue to navigate through this school year, we want to ensure that we are creating space for our students to collaborate, engage with each other, and have fun. At the same time, we must also ensure that our students are fully supported in their academic work. While we are working hard on our end to create engaging lessons and systems for added support, there is much you can do on your end as well:

- Please ensure your scholars have an at-home environment that is conducive to learning. This means a quiet space, free of distractions, and all of their materials ready.
- Please ensure your scholars are attending classes as attendance is taken daily.
- Please ensure your scholars are submitting all of their assignments online.
- If a student requires any support, please be sure to reach out to your teachers or advisors. We know online learning is very challenging, and we are here to support you throughout the school year.

Again, thank you for your partnership during these trying times. We look forward to collaborating with you throughout the school year, and providing a high quality school experience for our scholars.

Ms. Pearson, FPE/FPM Principal
Mr. Rivera, FPH Principal

THE FREEDOM FORECAST

A Message from our Executive Director

Dear Freedom Prep Charter School families: Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year and our first monthly newsletter! Happy LatinX Heritage Month! We have so appreciated the opportunity to have your students back in our virtual classrooms. We are also eager to see them again in-person when they return to instruction in the building on November 30th.

In the meantime, I would like to invite guardians or family members to join our Family Advisory Committee that will kick off at our Title I Grant meeting on October 28 at 5:00 PM. If you’re interested and would like to learn more about the event or the Family Advisory Committee, please email Fatimah Dale, our Family Engagement and Enrollment Senior Manager, at fatimah.dale@democracyprep.org.

It is my privilege to partner with you.

With gratitude,

CONSTANCE FAITH HORTON
Executive Director || constance.horton@democracyprep.org

THE MISSION OF DEMOCRACY PREP IS TO EDUCATE RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN-SCHOLARS FOR SUCCESS IN THE COLLEGE OF THEIR CHOICE AND A LIFE OF ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP.

Spotlight on: Hispanic and Latinx People

An estimated 60 million Americans identify as Hispanic and/or Latinx. It must be noted that no one term can perfectly describe all the people of Latin American and Spanish-speaking descent, so when we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month we honor the contributions and accomplishments of brilliant humans with lineage from a vast geography. Among the millions we recognize are people who take pride in being descendants of over 20 different nationalities and people who proudly identify themselves as Tejano, Mestizo, Afro-Latino, Hispanic, Taíno, Chicano, Nuyorican, Latinx, Indigenous, Isleños, and so many more empowering labels. (posted on pbs.org by Beatrice Alvarez)
Hispanic Heritage is Our Collective Heritage
BY JACQUELYN STYPULKOWSKI, FPH ELL TEACHER

At FPCS, we celebrate our scholars year round. We teach our scholars to embrace and celebrate their identities while building bridges with others. In our high school, our scholars and staff are eager to celebrate Latinx Heritage Month in the 2020-2021 school year! We are dedicated to this celebration because it is an important opportunity to honor and discover the cultures, languages, heritages, and histories of our Latinx scholars, families, and staff. Even within the virtual world, we come together and celebrate this month in a number of ways, including virtual activities for the Spanish word or phrase of the day, a virtual cooking competition, discussions and videos during morning announcements, and a virtual viewing party organized by our Upper Academy scholars. These activities and events bring many Hispanic cultures into our classrooms for all students to unite and learn!

MATH IN A VIRTUAL WORLD
By Kristie Wilson, FPM Math

Ever wonder what a teacher’s screen in virtual learning looks like? In the virtual world, math is even more challenging. Google docs doesn’t like to make math equations nicely, worksheets can’t be printed, it is easier to work on paper, but teachers still need to know if scholars are learning.

Since going virtual, I have had to problem solve the best way to show scholars how to do math. In the spring, Zoom’s annotation tool allowed me to create videos and show scholars how to do the work. However, in a 100% virtual world, Zoom doesn’t function in the same way. Math is a visual subject and scholars need to see how to do the math.

Enter the iPad. I needed a tool that allowed me to project documents that scholars were using and allowed me to write on it in real time. I needed to show scholars how to write the math down. The iPad allows me to see scholars in Zoom, project and teach on the document, answer questions in the chat, frees up screen space, and color code instruction so all learners can see the differences in math work.

How can you support your scholar in math during this time? First, make sure they attend all Zoom classes. Math is the toughest subject to miss because it is highly visual. Second, check your scholar’s work. Are they writing it on paper? Are they typing it? Is there any work anywhere? ALL scholars should be writing something down somewhere. Math is not the subject to do in your head. Three, ask them what they learned today. Science has shown the more touches a scholar gets on something, the more likely it is they remember how to do it. Last, let them play games. The internet is full of math games all over the place. Pick a skill and google it with the word “game” and VIOLA! You can also always ask your scholar’s teacher for suggestions of games to help reinforce skills! Math doesn’t have to be scary in the virtual world, but it does have to exist.

OCTOBER’S TEACHER SPOTLIGHT | MR. EDWIN PORRATA, FPE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER TEACHER

Every month a FPCS staff member is highlighted for their work in our school. Mr. Porrata was chosen this month due to his great efforts in maintaining family engagement, supporting his scholars during virtual learning and for always bringing Latinx culture into his classroom.

What does this month mean to you? Hispanic Heritage Month means a lot to me because we have a time of the year dedicated to hispanic people who have made an impact in the world. It’s where we celebrate what it means to be Hispanic or Latinx. Sometimes, we forget our heritage and what makes us unique. This is a reminder that we should apply our culture to our everyday lives. I sure know that I love cooking pasteles, dancing bachata, playing dominoes, watching Casa Cerrrado and some soap operas!!!

How do you include yourself into your teaching experience? In my co-teaching class, I love including my Latinx culture into my lesson planning. Whenever we use an exemplar or metaphors, it has something to do with the scholar’s demographic. They love hearing about things referring to a bodega in math or how to cook pastelon in Science class. The little things count. I find all the cool things in the lessons when co-teaching with Ms. Kehoe, Rafter, Couture, and Schnieder. Having that cohesiveness between brilliant people out for a common cause is priceless!
Getting our children to understand the importance of wearing a mask can help make the process easier. Be honest (but not scary) about how a mask helps prevent everyone from spreading germs. Explain that acts such as sneezing and coughing can sometimes spread bad germs, and wearing a mask offers a protective barrier.

Masks can be scary for children because they hide part of the face, and from an early age, children look at faces for signals they need to feel safe. Not seeing a smile or an expression that is familiar to them can be frightening. Here’s how to help make your child more comfortable with wearing a mask:

- Wear a mask yourself, and let them know it’s ok if they feel scared
- Allow them to practice wearing a mask and teach them how to put it on and take it off before going out in public
- Make wearing a mask fun by having them decorate their mask if the fabric allows or using a fun and friendly pattern for masks made at home
- Put a mask on a favorite stuffed animal, or draw a mask on their favorite book character
- Explain the importance of wearing a mask before trying to put the mask on them

Have a child 11 years old or younger? Contact Nurse June for masks at june.flanagan@democracyprep.org.

**Community Connections Corner**

**FPCS at Caribbean Heritage Day**

To kick off the new school year, FPCS joined Parents for Greater Camden Schools (PGCS) for the organization’s first annual Caribbean Heritage Day festival-- which took place in Farnham Park in the Parkside section of the city. This event was in celebration of culture, history and origin of the Afro-Caribbean people and their dispersion all over the world. PGCS welcomed families from the community to share a piece of their heritage with others. Freedom Prep’s Popoca Family set up a wonderful table of fresh fruit and mango juice! The event was filled with fun, music, food and laughter!! To learn more about PGCS, check them out on Facebook-- @greatcamdenschools

**9/11 Day of Service**

9/11 was Patriot Day and the National Day of Service & Remembrance. This year our FPES scholars, under the direction of Mrs. Magdin, created and presented a 9/11 video and tribute to Chief Harper and Ladder 1 personnel.

Thank you for serving our city with compassion, bravery, and determination.

Check out the video on our Instagram page!

**Opportunities**

**Camden Youth Advisory (CYAC)** is a citywide youth leadership group made up of high school students from across Camden City schools. In this program, Camden youth are empowered to advocate around youth-identified issues that directly impact the health and wellness of Camden City residents. Did I mention they get paid $15 for every activity and meeting. To apply, reach out to Melissa Thompson at (609) 238-9642.

**Girls Inc.** Girls in grades K-12 from both Pennsylvania and New Jersey can participate in virtual after school and Saturday programs. The Girls Inc. Experience allows girls and young women to be a part of a movement and community that embraces all girls. For more information, visit https://girlsincpa-nj.org/

**Family Advisory Committee:** FPCS is organizing and establishing the Family Advisory Committee. Become a member of the Family Advisory Committee and work collectively with other families to stay actively involved in the education and academics of your scholar and provide feedback and ideas for the development of the community! To become a member, contact Fatimah at (609) 471-4531.
Art as Active Citizenship

Artistic Activism is known to be a dynamic practice that combines the creative power of the arts to move us emotionally with the strategic planning of activism necessary to bring about social change.

The scholars at Freedom Prep Middle and Freedom Prep High have been working on digital design projects to create images encouraging Camden Residents to vote. Check out our ‘Art as Active Citizenship’ Virtual Exhibit on our social media platforms and throughout this issue of the newsletter! One may even show up in your mailbox!

OCTOBER ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

OCTOBER 12  SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR INDIENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY

OCTOBER 19  TREASURE HUNT

OCTOBER 26  MOVIE NIGHT
  VIA ZOOM 5:30PM

OCTOBER 28  TITLE I GRANT MEETING
  VIA ZOOM 5:00PM