

## FREEHOLD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



August 2008

# NEWS REPORT

Colts Neck High School • Freehold High School • Freehold Township High School  
Howell High School • Manalapan High School • Marlboro High School

Vol. 10 No. 1



## Summer Programs Give Students Jump Start

While their friends were lying on the beach or enjoying other activities associated with summer vacation, over 550 students voluntarily opted to spend their summer days attending one of four, six-week summer school programs offered by the district.

The summer programs provided academic support to students who are struggling with their classwork, and lack the math, writing, and reading skills needed for success on the HSPA exam, a requirement for high school graduation.

The traditional summer school, for students who had failed an academic course required for graduation, gave 300 students a second chance at success; while the ELL summer school program, attended by 50 students whose primary language is not English, helped students to integrate English language skills with the study skills needed for success on the HSPA.

The Extended School Year program addressed the academic needs of 50 special education students who require a year-round school program, as part

of their IEP, in order to sustain their academic achievement.

About 150 students signed up for an Academic Support Instruction class to reinforce the study skills needed for success in high school. With the assistance of computer software, students strengthened their writing, reading and math skills.

Incoming freshmen, seeking to reinforce their study skills, opted for the two-week study skills class that covered note taking, organization, and memorization techniques.

## Mid-Term Examinations

**Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2009**

One exam

**Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009**

Two exams

**Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009**

Two exams

**Friday, Jan. 30, 2009**

Two exams

**Monday, Feb. 2, 2009**

Make-Up Exams

**Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2009**

Make-Up Exams

## Final Examinations

**Wednesday, June 17, 2009**

One 90-minute exam given in A.M.

**Thursday, June 18, 2009**

Two 90-minute exams given in A.M.

**Friday, June 19, 2009**

Two 90-minute exams given in A.M.

**Monday, June 22, 2009**

Two 90-minute exams given in A.M.

**Tuesday, June 23, 2009**

Make-Up Exams

Distribution of Grades

Failure/Summer School Notification  
and Graduation Rehearsal

## Class 2008 Excels

A summary of the graduating Class of 2008 confirmed what many already considered obvious - "that these kids were outstanding," said Ellen Horowitz, administrative supervisor of student services.

Of the 2,945 FRHSD graduates in June, over 94 percent went to colleges and universities and other institutions of higher learning. They also set a district record by earning over \$60 million in scholarship awards.

"The class of 2008 was actively recruited by the top universities in the country for their academic, athletic, and leadership abilities," said Horowitz.

The following list depicts some of the top colleges in the country that will house our graduates this fall:

Barnard College ♦ Boston College  
Boston U. ♦ Brandeis U.  
Brown University ♦ Bucknell University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Colgate U. ♦ College of NJ  
College of William and Mary  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College  
Duke University ♦ Emory University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Lafayette College  
Lehigh University ♦ MIT  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rice University ♦ Rutgers University  
Stanford University  
Swarthmore College  
Tufts University ♦ Tulane University  
University of Chicago  
University of Michigan  
University of North Carolina  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Virginia  
US Coast Guard Academy  
US Military Academy - West Point  
Villanova U. ♦ Wake Forest U.  
Washington University (St. Louis)

## High School Proficiency Assessment Standardized Testing Dates

*These exams, administered to all New Jersey students during the 11th grade, test knowledge in math, language arts literacy, and science.*

*Passing the math and language arts sections of the HSPA is a New Jersey graduation requirement.*

**HSPA** for retained 11th graders, for first-time 12th graders, for retained 12th graders, for returning students, and for adult high school students:

**September 29, 2008**

**HSPA Regular Testing** (Mathematics)

**October 2 and 3, 2008**

**HSPA Regular Testing**  
(Language Arts Literacy - Days 1 and 2)

**October 6, 7, and 8, 2008**

**HSPA Make-Up Testing**  
(Mathematics & Language Arts Literacy  
Days 1 and 2)

**HSPA** for ALL first-time 11th graders, for retained 11th graders, for first-time 12th graders, for retained 12th graders, for returning students, and adult high school students:

**March 3, 2009**

**HSPA Regular Testing** (Mathematics)

**March 4 and 5, 2009**

**HSPA Regular Testing**  
(Language Arts Literacy - Days 1 and 2)

**March 10, 11, and 12, 2009**

**HSPA Make-Up Testing**  
(Mathematics & Language Arts Literacy  
Days 1 and 2)

**May 18, 2009**

**End of Course Biology Test**

**May 21, 2009**

**End of Course Biology Make-Up Testing**

A **Pre-HSPA-Related Placement Test** will be administered to all 9th and 10th grade students on the above listed dates.

## High Schools Offer Mandarin Chinese

"Ni hao" (hello) may soon become a commonly heard greeting throughout our high schools, as FRHSD launches its first Mandarin Chinese language classes in September.

About 110 students have registered for the language classes that include traditional reading and writing skills, as well as calligraphy, a study of the characters that make up the Chinese alphabet.

Mandarin Chinese is considered one of the most difficult languages to learn. Instructors will teach the language to students in a user-friendly, interactive manner with auditory, visual and artistic components. Beginning Mandarin vocabulary will be reinforced through songs, games, and storytelling.

Because Mandarin Chinese is a tonal language, syllables and words take their meaning from both the tone and the sound. The meaning of a word changes based on the way a word or syllable is pronounced. For example, the Chinese word "ma," can mean either horse or mother, depending on the tone.

Mandarin Chinese was added to the district course offering due to a growing interest in the language. Mandarin Chinese is the most spoken language on the planet, and the second most common language on the Internet.

### Final Chance to Attend Driver Safety Program

A make-up *Driver Safety Program* will be held for students & parents on:

**Wednesday, September 10th  
at Marlboro High School  
6:30 p.m.**

Student and parent attendance at a Driver Safety Program is mandatory for all seniors wishing to obtain a parking permit for the 2008-2009 school year.

## FRHSD Academies & Specialized Learning Centers Set Application Dates

The Freehold Regional High School District operates a variety of unique academies and specialized learning centers geared to students with a strong interest and an aptitude in a particular subject area.

All academy and learning center curricula are designed as sequential, four-year academic programs beginning in the ninth grade. Students must apply to the academy or specialized learning center of their choice during the fall of their eighth grade. The application process will open on Thursday, October 2, 2008, and will close on Monday, November 3, 2008. The application process may include testing, essays, academic history, recommendations, and/or auditions.

Students from all eight FRHSD communities are eligible to apply for admission to the highly competitive programs. Students admitted into an academy or specialized program attend the school that houses that particular program. The district provides transportation for all students enrolled in the programs.

To learn more about individual programs, application procedures and deadlines, and to meet program staff, eighth grade students and their parents are urged to attend the appropriate Program Overview session listed below.

### Program Overview Dates & Locations

All programs: 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

<u>Programs</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Animal and Botanical Sciences Academy</b>	Tuesday, Oct. 21	Freehold Twp HS
<b>Automobile Technology Academy</b>	Thursday, Oct. 2	Manalapan HS
<b>Business Administration SLC</b>	Tuesday, Oct. 7	Marlboro HS
<b>Computer Science Academy</b>	Monday, Oct. 20	Freehold HS
<b>Contemporary Global Issues SLC</b>	Tuesday, Oct. 21	Freehold Twp HS
<b>Culinary Arts Academy</b>	Monday, Oct. 6	Freehold HS
<b>Fine &amp; Performing Arts Academy</b>	Tuesday, Oct. 28	Howell HS
<b>Scholars Center for the Humanities SLC</b>	Tuesday, Oct. 28	Howell HS
<b>Law Enforcement and Public Safety Academy</b>	Thursday, Oct. 2	Manalapan HS
<b>Law &amp; Public Service SLC</b>	Thursday, Oct. 16	Colts Neck HS
<b>Medical Sciences SLC</b>	Wednesday, Oct. 22	Freehold HS
<b>Navy JROTC Academy</b>	Thursday, Oct. 16	Colts Neck HS
<b>Science &amp; Engineering SLC</b>	Thursday, Oct. 2	Manalapan HS

# Publicity Release Reminder

Parents are reminded that signed Publicity Release forms are kept on file for the duration of the student's high school career at FRHSD. The Publicity Release form **may be reviewed and/or revised** by parents and adult students at any time by contacting the Public Information Office at **(732) 792-7300, ext. 8542**.

Student information used in media press releases or on the district website **is limited to**: student name; age; hometown; school; grade; participation in school activities/sports; field of study; description of award/honor received; photograph related to press release; and the weight or height of students participating in school sports programs.

(Cell Phones, from page 6)

While cell phones may be used before and after school, they must be kept out of sight during the instructional day.

"Cell phones do not belong in the classroom and we ask parents to work with us," said James Wasser, superintendent, adding that telephones are available in the main office for students to use in the event of an emergency, as well as for parents to contact their children, if necessary, during the school day.

For more information about the revised cell phone policy, parents and students should refer to the 2008-2009 Student-Parent Handbook or visit the FRHSD website at **www.frhsd.com**.

## REPORT CARDS/Marking Periods

### *1st Marking Period:*

September 4, 2008 - November 12, 2008

### *2nd Marking Period:*

November 13, 2008 - January 30, 2009

### *3rd Marking Period:*

February 2, 2009 - April 8, 2009

### *4th Marking Period:*

April 20, 2009 - June 23, 2009

## INTERIM REPORTS MAILED

### *1st Session:*

Friday, October 10, 2008

### *2nd Session:*

Friday, January 9, 2009

### *3rd Session:*

Monday, March 9, 2009

### *4th Session:*

Friday, May 15, 2009

# Emergency Closings & Delayed Openings

For the latest on school closings and delayed openings due to severe weather conditions or other emergencies, go to the district website at:

[www.frhsd.com](http://www.frhsd.com).

School closings are posted by 6 a.m.

School closings are also announced on the following radio stations: The Point (**94.3 FM**) and WADB (**1310 AM**); WHTG (**1410 AM** and **106.3 FM**); and WOBN (**92.7 FM** and **1170 AM**). TV's News 12 New Jersey announces school closings and you may go on-line to **www.wor710.com**.

## Delayed openings

When it is necessary to declare a delayed opening, all school schedules and bus pickups are delayed by 90 minutes. Dismissals remain the same as on normal school days.

During a delayed opening Freehold, Howell, and Manalapan High Schools will begin at 9 a.m. Colts Neck, Freehold Township, and Marlboro

High Schools will begin at 10 a.m.

AM vocational students are to report to their home high schools and will not be transported to vocational school. PM vocational students will be transported as usual. The final decision as to whether or not a child should attend school on that particular day is at the discretion of the parent.

If weather conditions deteriorate after a delayed opening has been posted, it may become necessary to cancel school for the entire day. This decision will be posted on the district website and announced by the media listed above.

## Early Closings

Early closings due to inclement weather are also posted on the district website and announced by the listed radio stations.

During an early closing, early schools are dismissed at 12:03 p.m. and late schools at 1:03 p.m. Parents may come to school and sign out their children at any time. Students will not, however, be allowed to leave school on their own.

## Regular Bell Schedule

	<u>Early School</u>	<u>Late School</u>
<b>Warning Bell</b>	7:25	8:25
<b>Home Rm</b>	7:30 - 7:35	8:30 - 8:35
<b>1st Pd</b>	7:40 - 8:25	8:40 - 9:25
<b>2nd Pd</b>	8:30 - 9:15	9:30 - 10:15
<b>3rd Pd</b>	9:20 - 10:05	10:20 - 10:50
<b>4th Pd</b>	10:10 - 10:40	10:55 - 11:05
<b>5th Pd</b>	10:45 - 10:55	11:10 - 11:40
<b>6th Pd</b>	11:00 - 11:30	11:45 - 11:55
<b>7th Pd</b>	11:35 - 11:45	12:00 - 12:30
<b>8th Pd</b>	11:50 - 12:20	12:35 - 12:45
<b>9th Pd</b>	12:25 - 12:35	12:50 - 1:20
<b>10th Pd</b>	12:40 - 1:10	1:25 - 2:10
<b>11th Pd</b>	1:15 - 2:00	2:15 - 3:00



# Mark Your Calendar...

*You may be enjoying the sunshine, cool ocean breezes and the summer excitement of August, but it's back to school time in September. Don't miss these important programs:*

## Wednesday, September 17 *Back-to-School Night* \_\_\_\_\_

Back-to-School-Night provides an opportunity for families to visit their child's high school, meet teachers, and find out about daily classroom routines and expectations. Back-to-School Night will be held **at all six high schools, 7 to 9 p.m.**

## October 2-28 *Academy/Learning Center Program Overviews* \_\_\_\_\_

Students and parents are invited to attend a series of special sessions to learn about our unique Academy and Specialized Learning Center programs. Program pre-requisites and admission procedures will be reviewed. For a complete listing of Program Overview dates and locations, see page 3.

## Thursday, October 23 *College & Career Night* \_\_\_\_\_

The College & Career Night, one of the largest in the state, hosts representatives from over 150 universities, colleges, vocational, and technical schools. Admission is open to FRHSD students only. The College & Career Night will be held in the **Colts Neck High School gymnasium, 6 to 9 p.m.**

## Wednesday, October 15 Thursday, November 13 Thursday, March 12 *Parent Conferences* \_\_\_\_\_

Be sure to make an appointment to meet your child's teachers and discuss their academic performance. Students will be dismissed early on these days.

# Freehold Regional High School District 2008 - 2009 School Calendar

## 2008

Wednesday, August 27 .....New Staff Orientation (District)  
 Thursday, August 28 .....New Staff Orientation (Building)  
 Monday, September 1 .....Schools Closed - Labor Day  
 Tuesday, September 2 .....Schools Closed - Staff In-Service  
 Wednesday, September 3 .....All Staff Report - 9th Grade Orientation  
 Thursday, September 4 .....**FIRST DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS**  
 Tuesday, September 30 .....Schools Closed  
 Wednesday, October 1 .....Schools Closed  
 Thursday, October 9 .....Schools Closed  
 Wednesday, September 17 ....Early Dismissal - **Back-to-School Night**  
 Wednesday, October 15 .....Early Dismissal - **Parent/Teacher Conf.**  
 Thursday, October 23 .....**College & Career Night at CNHS**  
 Tuesday, November 4 .....Early Dismissal - Teacher In-Service  
 Thursday, November 6 .....Schools Closed - NJEA Convention  
 Friday, November 7 .....Schools Closed -NJEA Convention  
 Thursday, November 13 .....Early Dismissal - **Parent/Teacher Conf.**  
 Thursday, November 27 .....Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Day  
 Friday, November 28 .....Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Recess  
 Tuesday, December 23 .....Early Dismissal - Winter Recess

## 2009

Monday, January 5 .....Schools Reopen  
 Monday, January 19 .....Schools Closed - Martin L. King Jr. Day  
 Friday, February 13 .....Early Dismissal - Teacher In-Service  
 Monday, February 16 .....Schools Closed - Presidents' Weekend  
 Thursday, March 12 .....Early Dismissal - **Parent/Teacher Conf.**  
 Wednesday, April 8 .....Schools Closed at End of Day - **Spring Recess**  
 Monday, April 20 .....Schools Reopen  
 Monday, May 25 .....Schools Closed - Memorial Day  
 Tuesday, June 23 .....**LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS -Graduation Day**  
 Wednesday, June 24 .....Last Day for Staff

## Make-Up Days:

There are four days built into the calendar for inclement weather and other emergencies. In the event the District needs to make up more than four days due to emergency closings, the calendar will be modified to make up those days on holidays/recess days.

If the District needs to make up one day prior to January 19, 2009, that day will be made up by opening schools on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

If the District needs to make up a school day after January 19, 2009, schools will be opened on February 16, 2009, Presidents' Day.

If the District needs to make up emergency closing days after Presidents' Day, spring recess will be used according to the following schedule:

Make-Up day # 1	Tuesday, April 14, 2009
Make-Up day # 2	Wednesday, April 15, 2009
Make-Up day # 3	Thursday, April 16, 2009

# Board Reviews Stricter Cell Phone Policy

While cell phones are definitely useful and prevalent in today’s society, they have also become a major source of distraction and disruption in the classroom according to district staff.

Although students are required to deactivate cellular phones during the school day, classroom instruction is continually disrupted by the sound of phones ringing and students trying to read or send text messages.

Cell phones have played a major role in the increase of disciplinary incidents involving student cheating, drug dealing, taking inappropriate photos, downloading of pornography, bullying, and harassment among high school students.

Due to the excessive use and abuse of cell phones by students during the school day, the Board of Education is considering changes to the current

district policy. The revised policy will go into effect with the beginning of the school year in September and is expected to carry stronger penalties for noncompliance.

Current district policy prohibits students from using cell phones and other remotely activated/activating communication devices in the school building during the instructional day.

(more **Cell Phones**, page 4)

## Board of Education Meeting Dates

September 22, 2008 . . . . .	8 p.m. . . . .	Administration Building
October 6, 2008 . . . . .	8 p.m. . . . .	Administration Building
October 20, 2008 . . . . .	8 p.m. . . . .	Administration Building
November 17, 2008 . . . . .	8 p.m. . . . .	Administration Building
December 15, 2008 . . . . .	7 p.m. . . . .	Fall Student/Staff Recognition Awards
	8 p.m. . . . .	Regular Meeting - Howell HS Auditorium
January 12, 2009 . . . . .	8 p.m. . . . .	Administration Building
January 26, 2009 . . . . .	8 p.m. . . . .	Administration Building
February 23, 2009 . . . . .	8 p.m. . . . .	Administration Building
March 30, 2009 . . . . .	7 p.m. . . . .	Winter Student/Staff Recognition Awards
	8 p.m. . . . .	Regular Meeting - Administration Bldg
April 27, 2009 . . . . .	8 p.m. . . . .	Reorganization Mtg - Administration Bldg

Check the website, [www.frhsd.com](http://www.frhsd.com), to review the agenda and/or changes/additions to the above schedule.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

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- Mr. Christopher Placitella**  
Colts Neck Township

**Freehold Regional High School District  
Board of Education**  
11 Pine Street Englishtown, NJ 07726

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