

# Freedom High School

15201 Neabsco Mills Road • Woodbridge, VA 22191  
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*Chevelli Smith, Principal*

August 30, 2023

Dear Freedom High School Families,

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for all students, we are pleased to announce that we will implement new safety screening technology starting September 18, 2023. This advanced technology will enhance our existing security protocols and help us quickly identify potential threats, ensuring the safety of our students and staff.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during the implementation as we work together to adjust to new patterns and routines.

- The building will open to students at 6:55 a.m., 30-minutes prior to the start of the school day.
- We will have one entry into the building while all other doors will be locked. Those entries will be:
  - Door #1 - Parent drop-off
  - Door #1 - Bus riders
  - Door #1 - Student drivers

Once the school day begins, all visitors and students arriving after the bell will enter through Door #1 and will go through the screening.

To prepare ahead of the use of the technology in your school, families are encouraged to help reduce the possibility of “false alerts” on everyday items. While none are prohibited, using these guidelines will ensure a quick entry for everyone:

- Select clear and plastic school supplies over covered/concealed and metallic when applicable.
- Use three-ring binders with plastic spines/rings (non-metal).
- Use plastic (versus metallic) BPA-free water/coffee bottles. \*
- Use hard plastic eyeglass cases (versus metal).
- Students should pack lightly and limit the number of items in bags or other equipment.
- Keep superfluous metallic items home (game consoles, beauty products, USB drives).
- Laptops and umbrellas will be passed around the technology via a staffed table.

\*SPARK, the education foundation for PWCS, has worked with the Prince William County Service Authority to provide free, reusable water bottles to each school for students on a first-come, first-served basis. See the front office for more details.

Watch this video to learn more about entry through the system.

Our staff will receive training before the screening technology is active and will be working with students to ensure a smooth implementation.

Further Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding this screening technology can be found on the PWCS website.

If you have any questions or concerns about this new security measure or any other aspect of our school's safety protocols, do not hesitate to contact us. Your partnership and support are vital in making our school community safe and conducive to learning.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We look forward to working together to create a safe and nurturing environment for all our students, staff, and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chevelli Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Chevelli Smith  
Principal