

# This Week in FBCH Freedom School

July 2, 2025

## Weekly Theme

*I can make a difference in my family*

## Ask Your Scholar

1. *What is one new word or phrase you learned this week?*
2. *What is the theme for this week, and how did you talk about it in class?*
3. *Did you do any teamwork or group activities? What did you learn from others?*
4. *What is one thing you did this week that made you proud?*

## Weekly Book List

*These are books that may be on the shelves in your Scholar's classroom to help the weekly theme come alive for them.*

- *"The Electric Slide and Kai"* by Kelly Baptiste
- *"Mama the Alien"* by Rene Colato Lainez
- *"Mama's Home"* by Shay Youngblood
- *"Life Is Beautiful"* by Winsome Bingham
- *"The Last Stand"* by Antwan Eady
- *"Missing Momma"* by Winsome Bingham
- *"Dear Dad: Love Nelson: The Story of One Boy and His Incarcerated Father"* by Margaret McBride
- *"The Heart Never Forgets"* by Ana Ot
- *"For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World"* by Michael W. Waters
- *"My Dad is a DJ"* by Keith Henry and Kathryn Erskine

## Announcements, Reminders, and More

- Parents/Guardians should meet in their Scholar's classroom 3:00-3:15 pm to talk with Servant Leader Interns prior to the Parent Engagement meeting. After a visit to your Scholar's classroom, the Parent Engagement meetings continue on the third floor in rooms 303, 304, and 305. Parents are asked to sign in on the third floor to ensure they receive "credit" for attending the Parent Engagement meeting.
- University of Virginia study – please sign up your 6-, 7-, and 8-year-olds.
- Coming soon: We are making space for all parent engagement materials to be made available online at the church's website.
- Parents are asked to bring dessert to the finale scheduled for August 1, 1:00-3:00 pm. Please sign up on the clipboard.
- Freedom School leadership will be available for questions at the conclusion of each Parent Engagement meeting.
- Meals will be served following Parent Engagement meetings on July 9, 23, and at the finale August 1.

First Baptist Church of Hampton Freedom School 2025  
Parent Engagement Meetings

**Parent Engagement Meeting Intention.** The Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom School program will actively involve parents and families not just as volunteers, but also as adult learners, activists, and advocates. Tailored weekly workshops cater to the specific needs and interests of parents while concurrently promoting broader CDF initiatives and fostering parent partnerships. Additionally, to help inform key aspects of advocacy and power building, we are planning for parents to have more interaction with the Servant Leader Interns (SLIs) in their Scholars’ classroom. We believe these interactions with SLIs will encourage parents to grow alongside their Scholar, encourage parents to see themselves as partners in education, and for SLIs to be a catalyst for building community within Freedom School.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Parent Engagement Meeting Topic</u>
June 25	<b>All About Freedom School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Re)introduce the history of Freedom School</li> <li>• Explore Freedom School components in small groups</li> <li>• Explore what families would like to see as an outcome of Freedom School</li> </ul>
July 2	<b>Read Aloud Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review research findings on parents reading aloud to their children</li> <li>• Author-talk on books as mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors</li> <li>• Explore barriers to reading aloud to your children and model what reading aloud can be in your home</li> </ul>
July 9	<b>What Matters to Me and My Community? Who Holds the Power? <i>(Tentative)</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents explore what is impacting them and their families the most</li> <li>• Parents map out the system connected to their issue; identify formal and informal decision makers</li> <li>• Begin building shared language around parent voice and agency</li> </ul>
July 16	<b>What Kind of Advocate Am I, and How Do We Build Power Together? <i>(Tentative)</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about different advocacy strategies (individual, community, policy)</li> <li>• Discuss how collective action amplifies change</li> <li>• Introduce power mapping: allies, opponents, neutrals</li> <li>• Sketch out advocacy goals based on power map</li> </ul>
July 23	<b>Day of Social Action – Let’s Talk: School Administration Panel Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build confidence in relationship-based advocacy</li> </ul>
July 30	<b>Advocacy in Action Continues Beyond Freedom School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents participate in or present their advocacy work</li> <li>• Parents publicly share calls to action (civic event, letters, gallery walk, op-ed, etc.)</li> <li>• Reflect on growth and the next steps in the advocacy journey</li> </ul>

