

This Week in FBCH Freedom School

July 9, 2025

Weekly Theme

I can make a difference in my community

Ask Your Scholar

1. *What did you learn about community this week?*
2. *What does our block (neighborhood, street, city) look like to you?*
3. *How do you think we can build community with our neighbors, family, and friends?*
4. *What is one new word or phrase you learned this week?*
5. *Where did your imagination and creativity take you this week at Freedom School?*

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.

- *"Be a Bridge,"* by Irene Latham and Charles Waters
- *"Jayden's Impossible Garden"* by Melina Mangal
- *"Included: A Book for All Children About Inclusion, Diversity, Disability, Equality and Empathy"* by Jayneen Sanders
- *"Nia and the New Free Library"* by Ian Lendler
- *"Saturdays at Harlem Grown: How One Big Idea Transformed a Neighborhood"* by Tony Hillery
- *"My Block Looks Like"* by Janelle Harper
- *"Caged"* by Kao Kalia Yang

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.
- Please pick up your copy of "Soul School" if you did not receive it last week.
- Coming soon (promise - - it's coming!): We are making space for all parent engagement materials to be made available online at the church's website.
- Meals will be served following Parent Engagement meetings TODAY, July 9, July 23, and at the finale August 1.
- 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

First Baptist Church of Hampton Freedom School 2025
Campaign for Parent and family Well-Being and Advocacy

The Children's Defense Fund's (CDF) Campaign for Parent and Family Well-Being and Advocacy is committed to strengthen parent leadership, parent voice, and parent and family engagement within CDF Freedom Schools. We believe that when parents are equipped, valued, and organized, they become powerful agents of change for children, families, and communities.

Why This Matters Now. Families across the country are facing urgent challenges from attacks on public education to the increasing disruption and politization of federal agencies. This campaign is a strategic response to ensure parents are not only heard but leading the way.

CDF's 2025 National Day of Social Action – “Public Education is a Public Good”

The National Day of Social Action (NDSA) is a collective organizing effort centered around CDF's mission to build community, so young people grow up with dignity, hope, and joy. This year's NDSA will take place on Wednesday, July 23 and will focus on CDF's [Education for Civic Life and Work](#) policy agenda item. This policy agenda item reflects CDF's belief that education is a building block for civic life and work and has a major impact on our children and youth's ability to flourish.

Problem. The United States spends 2.7 time as much (per person) on incarceration as it does in education. In 2022, we saw the most severe drop in math scores for 4th and 8th graders since the first National Assessment of education Progress (NAEP) in 1990. Thirteen states have no civic course requirement, and only seven require a full year of government or civics instruction.

Policy Path. With your help, the CDF will advocate for public policy related to (1) positive youth development, (2) civics education, (3) workforce development, (4) culturally responsive pedagogy, and (5) equitable education funding formulas.

FBCH Freedom School NDSA

- Encourage your Scholar to wholeheartedly participate and ask them what their class is planning for the NDSA.
- The parent meeting on July 23 is planning for a panel discussion with elected officials and school administrators - - let's talk about the details.
- Consider how we can engage the community in one or more of the following activities to show you listened and will continue to carry the torch...
 - Lead the charge of building an advocacy group with the FBCH Freedom School parents.
 - Run for school board or encourage and support someone you know to run.
 - Join the Parent-Teacher Organization at your Scholar's school.

