

This Week in FBCH Freedom School

July 16, 2025

Weekly Theme

I can make a difference in my country

Ask Your Scholar

1. *Who was Congressman John Lewis?*
2. *Which woman refused to give up her seat on a bus first: Rosa Parks or Claudette Colvin?*
3. *What did you learn about segregation this week?*
4. *What project are you working on for the National Day of Social Action? (Ask this question at the end of the day Thursday.)*
5. *What was your favorite new word that you learned/heard this week?*

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.

- *"Congressman John Lewis: A Man on a Mission to Seek Justice for All"* by Jennifer Marino Walters
- *"The Rabbi and the Reverend"* by Audrey Ades
- *"Because Claudette"* by Tracey Baptiste
- *"Liberty's Civil Rights Road Trip"* by Michael W. Waters
- *"I Am John Lewis"* by Brad Meltzer
- *"Claudette Colvin"* by Lesa Cline-Ransome
- *"The Doll Test: Choosing Equality"* by Carole Boston Weatherford

Announcements, Reminders, and More

- Parents/Guardians will continue to 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.
- It's ready! The Online Parent Center is a hub for all parent engagement materials shared during Parent Engagement meetings.
- Meals will be served following Parent Engagement meetings July 23 (National Day of Social Action), 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 Engagement meeting.

Topics and Suggested Questions for
National Day of Social Action Panel Discussion
July 23, 2025

The following is a combination of what Freedom School parents said matters most to them and their community and the questions sent to guest panelists, in no particular order. Together, let's confirm these are topics (and suggested questions) that we want to ask panelists. Please volunteer to bring up a topic or ask questions during the panel discussion.

1. How will closing the U.S. Department of Education impact local schools?
2. **Equity in school funding.** Fighting for equitable school funding to ensure all schools, regardless of their geographic location or socioeconomic status, have the resources they need to succeed. How do budget cuts impact schools? How can we as parents help ensure educational systems are fair for all children?
3. **Arts and physical education.** Ensuring all students have opportunities to engage in music, arts, and physical education, as these programs foster creativity, critical thinking, and overall well-being.
4. **Teacher pay and working conditions.** Advocating for better compensation, professional development, and improved working conditions for teachers to retain high-quality educators and prevent burnout.
5. **Culturally responsive curriculum.** Ensuring that the curriculum reflects diverse histories, cultures, and perspectives, making learning more relevant and engaging for all students. How can parents help (positively) influence curriculum?
6. **School climate and teacher/student relationships.** Promoting policies and practices that foster positive relationships between teachers and students, building trust, and promoting a strong sense of community within the school.
7. **Parent and family engagement in education.** Strengthening the role of parents and families in the educational process through community outreach, parent-teacher organizations, and programs that encourage parental involvement in school activities. What are the top three areas parents can advocate for to support schools? What type of advocacy has the largest impact? Writing letters/emails to the editor? Writing letters/emails to elected officials (whether they represent us or not)? Lawful protests? Attending School Board meetings? Does joining the PTA really matter? Why? What are recommended strategies for working with administration at your child's school ("in the building")?
8. **School safety and anti-bullying.** Fostering a safe and supportive school environment free from bullying, harassment, and violence, with programs that address both physical and psychological safety.
9. **Restorative Justice practices.** Implementing restorative justice approaches to discipline that focuses on healing, accountability, and community-building rather than punitive measures, especially for marginalized students.

