



FANNIE LOU HAMER FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL (12X682)

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At [Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School](#), more than three-quarters of the 500 students are eligible for funding and programs for disadvantaged youth. About half of the students who enter each year are overage for their grade—they've been held back. Named for a famous civil rights leader [Fannie Lou Hamer](#), the school's ongoing struggle is for a high quality education including the arts—a struggle it has been achieving through Arts Powered Learning. Because despite the odds, students who may never have had the chance to work with scissors and paint before attending the school are learning to think of themselves as creators and authors. And the Department of Education has taken notice: Its observers rated the school "Well Developed" and praised the:

- imaginative curriculum, which includes **interdisciplinary portfolios** that encourage independent learning, writing and research skills, and independent thought;
- **the documentary class** in which students create films and then present them to their peers, helping them articulate what they've learned, an important skill in and of itself
- fact that **teachers are held accountable** for their students' progress and learning
- fact that **teachers also have many opportunities to work together** and receive feedback on their own work.
- relationship between students and teachers, which is one of mutual respect

SCROLL DOWN FOR SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT





MISSION STATEMENT

The fundamental aim of [Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School](#) is to teach students to use their minds well and prepare them to live productive, socially useful, and personally satisfying lives.

VISION STATEMENT

The Habits of Mind form the basis of our efforts to move students toward these goals. The school's academic program stresses intellectual development and political and social involvement in our society. Five Habits of Mind are stressed.

Viewpoint: Identifying and understanding various perspectives on an issue.

Evidence: Being able to support a particular point of view and critically examine different forms of evidence.

Connections: Seeing larger patterns & connections between ideas, the individual & the larger society.

Conjecture: Being able to envision alternatives and ask "what if?"

Relevance: Understanding the importance of an issue and asking "what difference does it make?"

The Habits of Mind are at the heart of all our work along with sound work habits and care and concern for others: Habits of Work and Heart. The curriculum of FLHFHS affirms the central importance of students **learning how to learn, how to reason, and how to investigate complex issues that require collaboration, personal responsibility and a tolerance for uncertainty.** It is inquiry-based, emphasizing projects which students design and carry out themselves, with teachers as guides and coaches. Communication skills, including reading, writing, public speaking and critical listening, are developed in all subject areas.

Based on a belief in the ability of all learners to succeed and excel, Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School (FLHFHS) seeks to provide all students with a complete, rounded, academically rigorous education that is both broad and deep in its scope. Aware of the varied degrees of preparedness of students as they enter our school, we seek to provide a wide range of support so that each student can realize his/her potential and identify and achieve his/her personal goals. The tone of the school deliberately stresses high expectations and trust, as well as fairness, generosity and respect for diversity.

Our school is guided by the principals of the Coalition of Essential Schools. These principles include:

Less is More: It is important to understand a few concepts in-depth rather than knowing many things superficially. Learning how to learn is most important.

Personalization: Every student should be known well. While courses of study are universal and unified, teaching and learning are personalized.

High Standards: Work is always central to what we do. Upon completion of high school, students must exhibit mastery of understanding in the major disciplines.

Student-as-Worker: Teachers coach students, encouraging them to find answers for themselves. Students discover and learn by doing, rather than simply repeating what textbooks or teachers say.

In addition to intellectual development, the school's academic program stresses political/social involvement in our society. Our school is named after a grassroots community leader who fearlessly led the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to the National Convention in pursuit of people's basic civil rights. Her courage in the face of challenge, and her tenacity in struggling for justice, are values that we hope will inspire our own students to become activists in their own communities.