



Freedom Grads -> Future Stars

Andrea (Clear) Niedbala is a 1999 graduate of Freedom and participated on the Varsity Softball team and Drill team with the Freedom "Big Red" Marching Band. She was a part of National Honor Society, the Varsity Club, Fine Arts Consortium, Ski Club, Pep Club, and was a class officer.

Andrea earned her Bachelor of Science in Education with a concentration in Secondary English from Slippery Rock University in 2003. While at Slippery Rock, she was a member of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. She earned her Master's Degree in Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Gannon University in 2009.

Andrea began teaching in the Freedom Area School District in August 2005, and she is now in her 16th year teaching at Freedom. Andrea teaches English 9 and Honors English 9 in the same classroom where she was taught 9th grade English in the late 1990s by teacher Mr. Burns. During her teaching career, she has sponsored the basketball cheerleading squad, ski club, and has served as an assistant coach with the varsity softball team. She feels that her biggest impact has come from developing the Folmar Freshman Leadership Forum along with Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Anna Marie Folmar. This program provides current freshman students the opportunity to work with FHS alumni to develop soft skills required for success beyond high school. It is the first step in helping to provide students with an education tailored to their individual goals for beyond high school.

Andrea is often asked why she came back to teach at her alma mater, or asked "Isn't that weird?" Her answer will always be "Because I love it there." She truly finds it enlightening and rewarding to be a teacher at the same school district from which she received her education. Freedom is where she had a wonderful time with friends, bonded with teachers who became role models for her, found inspiration, discovered her passion for learning, learned how to be a gracious loser and humble winner. Andrea cried tears of grief, anger, disappointment, excitement, and happiness while on campus. Freedom Area School District is where she became what she is today. She is honored to be providing that same experience for the students at Freedom Area today.

When asked why parents should enroll their kids at Freedom, Andrea says, "The small school environment lends itself to smaller class sizes, better relationships with teachers, more individual attention, a giving and caring community that supports the school district, and a place where your children can call home forever."