



The Freedom Institute | Freedom Ave Maria
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Freedom Institute Appoints Jill Striz as Principal of New Ave Maria Campus

Ave Maria, FL – The Freedom Institute of Collier County is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Jill Striz as Principal of Freedom Ave Maria, the organization’s second campus, set to open in August 2026 at 5078 Pope John Paul II Boulevard.

The new location marks an important milestone in the Freedom Institute’s rapid growth and expansion across Southwest Florida, bringing its innovative, personalized high school model to the growing Ave Maria community. The campus is projected to serve more than 120 students in the coming years as demand for flexible, career-focused education continues to rise.



“Mrs. Striz brings an exceptional combination of instructional leadership, community commitment, and passion for student success,” said Christopher Marker, CEO of the Freedom Institute. “As we launch our Ave Maria campus, we are excited to have a principal who understands both the academic excellence and strong character formation that define the Freedom experience.”

Mrs. Striz began her career in education in 2015 with Collier County Public Schools and has served as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, and most recently Assistant Principal. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving student outcomes, supporting teachers, and building a culture of high expectations.

A longtime resident of Ave Maria, Mrs. Striz has called the community home for more than a decade and is raising her family there. She has played a key role in school improvement efforts and was instrumental in helping guide a school under state oversight to achieve an “A” school grade through strategic instructional leadership and data-driven decision making.

In 2019, Mrs. Striz was recognized as a Teacher of Distinction and Golden Apple recipient, reflecting her dedication to excellence in the classroom.

“I am honored to serve as the founding principal of Freedom Ave Maria,” said Mrs. Jill Striz. “Freedom’s mission to develop students’ character, critical thinking, and real-world readiness strongly aligns with my own beliefs about education. I look forward to partnering with families and educators to cultivate a culture where students are challenged, supported, and prepared to achieve their highest potential.”

Mrs. Striz holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education from Ave Maria University and a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of West Florida. She also holds certifications and endorsements in K-12 Gifted, K-12 Reading, K-12 ESOL, and Elementary Education.

The Freedom Institute’s Ave Maria campus will offer the same award-winning, personalized education model that has driven the success of its Naples location. The program blends the flexibility of homeschooling with the structure and mentorship of a traditional high school environment, helping students pursue individualized learning pathways aligned with their college and career aspirations.

Freedom Institute Offerings

Through its signature C5 curriculum—Core, Civics, College & Career, Consumerism, and Character—students receive a highly personalized education supported by Freedom’s concierge-style Success Coach model. Each student is paired with a dedicated Success Coach who provides individualized guidance, choice navigation, and mentorship, helping families design an educational pathway aligned with the student’s strengths, interests, and long-term career goals.

Students have the flexibility to build a customized high school experience that may include early college dual enrollment, industry-relevant AI literacy and skills training, internships, mentorships, and real-world career exploration. This flexible, future-focused model empowers students to pursue meaningful opportunities while developing the academic knowledge, practical skills, and professional experiences needed for success after graduation.

As enrollment demand continues to grow, the new Ave Maria campus will expand access to this innovative model while strengthening partnerships with local businesses, colleges,

and community organizations to provide expanded internship, mentorship, dual enrollment, and workforce development opportunities for students.

Limited enrollment for Freedom Ave Maria’s inaugural 2026-27 school year is now open.

For more information about Freedom Ave Maria or enrollment opportunities, visit www.freedominstitute.net or call 239-427-1776.

About the Freedom Institute of Collier County

The Freedom Institute is an innovative high school program offering personalized and flexible learning pathways that build critical thinking, financial literacy, and the foundations of engaged American citizenship. Through an AI-enhanced curriculum, a blend of high school and college courses, and real-world experiences—including internships, college and career preparation, and job placement—students gain the skills, knowledge, and values essential for economic freedom and workforce success. The Institute’s American Dream Conversations at Freedom series brings civic, business, and thought leaders directly to students to share lessons about life, liberty, and the pursuit of excellence.