



TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Township of Franklin Public Schools Community,

Welcome to **Week 4** of our Distance Learning Experience. The good news.....spring break is right around the corner, the bad news.....no new information on the return to traditional schooling as we know it. Once again, all of you have been **amazing** and we cannot thank you enough for your cooperation, support and patience in dealing with this difficult situation. As promised, we are striving to provide you with all of the information and tools you need to assist your child in learning from home.

NO NEW INFORMATION FROM THE STATE

As previously stated, we have not received any new information regarding the return to school. We are hoping Governor Murphy makes good on his April 17th revisit date and provides some sort of an update in regards to education. Obviously, as more information becomes available we will pass it along.

SPRING BREAK

Friendly reminder that the district will be closed for the spring recess from **Friday, April 10th through Friday, April 17th**. Please know that distance learning will not occur during the spring recess. I encourage everyone to take a much needed break from school work and relax, rejuvenate and most importantly stay healthy. Unless otherwise notified, distance learning will resume on Monday, April 20th.

INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATES

“Live” Video Conferencing/Classes-Last week we enabled the Google Meet feature for all of our students and some teachers began using it to conduct “live” video conferencing and lessons. We have received positive feedback from both parents and staff. Please remember with anything new there will be speedbumps along the way. We understand that the technology abilities of staff members, students and parents differ and that is okay. Your child will not be penalized if they are unable to participate in the “live” video conference/lesson. The video conference will be recorded and posted for the students to reference. Also, keep in mind that Google Meet gives your child the ability to conference with other students. If you are comfortable with them doing so, this tool will let students collaborate on school assignments and projects. If you have questions or concerns regarding the use of “live” video conferencing, please contact your child’s principal.

Work Session Wednesdays-So far, “Work Session Wednesdays” have been very well received. The teachers will not post any new assignments on Wednesdays. Instead, they will use the time to reach out to students and provide more individualized and/or small group instruction. The students should use this time to complete any missing assignments. The district also will use Wednesdays to provide professional development and collaboration time for the teaching staff. If your child is struggling with an assignment or educational concept, please reach out to the teacher and request assistance.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

This information is for the parents/guardians of children in our special education program. Special Education Services including speech/language services and counseling may now be delivered to students through the use of electronic communication and virtual or online platforms, as appropriate. Guidelines for virtual services will follow district policy and the days of virtual or remote services will count/qualify as a day of service. At this time, OT/PT services cannot be held remotely via a virtual or online platform, however, consultation time with the physical therapist or the occupational therapist is available upon request.

A related services survey was sent to all parents of special education students on Friday, April 3, 2020. All parents are asked to fill out the survey indicating whether or not you want your child to receive services remotely. The survey needs to be completed by April 9, 2020. Only the services listed in a student's current IEP will be offered. Service providers will work on schedules based on the responses and contact parents that have agreed to services regarding session days and times. Services will begin on 4/20/2020.

Annual IEP review season has begun. All IEP meetings will be held virtually through Google. Notices for meetings will be sent via mail and through the Google platform.

If you did not receive a survey or you have any questions and/or concerns about related services or your child's IEP meeting please, contact Barbara Dobzanski at 856-629-9500 ext. 1213 or via email at bdobzanski@franklintwpschools.org.

FOOD SERVICE DURING SPRING BREAK

Last week we adjusted our food service schedule. Lunches are now available for pick up on Mondays and Wednesdays only between 10:00 am and noon. In addition, we have set up a delivery option for those families without the means to pick up lunches. In efforts to ensure the nutritional needs of our students are met, **we will provide lunches during spring break. During spring break, four days of lunches will be available for pick up and/or delivery on Tuesday, April 14th only.** Please know that even if you are not in the free/reduced lunch program but are in need of food support, we are here to help. Contact your child's school counselor or building principal if you need assistance. For your reference, there is a list of local food pantries posted on the Distance Learning web page.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Unfortunately, the in-person Kindergarten registration sessions scheduled for April 28th and May 4th have been canceled. We continue to urge parents of Kindergarten aged children to complete the online pre-registration form-[Click here for the form](#). More information will be provided in regards to Kindergarten registration as it becomes available. Please pass this information on to anyone you may know that has a child that will be entering Kindergarten in September.

DISTANCE LEARNING WEBPAGE

A friendly reminder to continue using the **Distance Learning Web page** as means to stay informed. During the first week of our distance learning experience the district website had over 14,000 views. Thank you! This page will consistently be updated so please visit this site often. [Distance Learning Web Page](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

In addition to the Distance Learning Page, the district has compiled a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document. The FAQs document can be found on the Distance Learning web page and has been updated with additional information. Please feel free to contact us with suggestions for the FAQs document. [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

The technology department will be available daily. The technology department can be reached by email at techsupport@franklintwpschools.org or phone 856-629-9500 Ext. 5000. It is important to know that our technology department will only be able to address questions related to our district assigned devices and software applications that our students are using; they will not be able to address home networking questions. However, questions about accessing Google Classroom, the teacher website, iReady, and/or other instructional based programs should first be directed to your child's teacher.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Employment Resources-The state has set up resources for community members looking for work. Please visit the websites below for more information.

- Looking for employment? STATE OF NEW JERSEY COVID-19 JOBS AND HIRING PORTAL <https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov/>
- Looking to hire? COVID-19 ON DEMAND HIRING INTAKE FORM <https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov/intake>

Childcare for Essential Employees Resource- A state produced list of childcare providers can be found at the web link below.

- https://www.nj.gov/dcf/coronavirus_licensedchildcare.html

I will continue to update our school community as information becomes available. Please be assured that our school district is here to support our students and school community. Our faculty and staff is working hard to make the best of this Distance Learning experience. Please let us know how we can be of an assistance. Stay safe.

Yours in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy Walton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Mr. Troy Walton
Superintendent of Schools