



TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

3228 COLES MILL ROAD
FRANKLINVILLE, NJ 08322
www.franklintwpschools.org

Telephone: (856) 629-9500
Troy Walton, Superintendent

Fax: (856) 629-1486
Trish Birmingham, Board Secretary/SBA

January 14, 2021

Dear Township of Franklin Public Schools Community,

Happy New Year! It is our hope that you were able to safely and responsibly enjoy time with family and loved ones this holiday season. We are currently in the second week back to school since the winter recess and overall things are going very well. Listed below are some very important district updates to keep you informed.

HYBRID SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 18TH-DISTRICT SCHEDULE

Monday, January 18 th	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day-District Closed
Tuesday, January 19 th	Cohorts B & C (in-person)/Cohort A (virtual)
Wednesday, January 20 th	Cohorts A & C (in-person)/Cohort B (virtual)
Thursday, January 21 st	Cohorts A & C (in-person)/Cohort B (virtual)
Friday, January 22 nd	Cohorts B & C (in-person)/Cohort A (virtual)

***Kindergarten Hybrid students will attend all four days.**

LIVE STREAMING OF LESSONS/INSTRUCTIONAL SCHEDULE UPDATE-IMPORTANT

In efforts to increase instructional time, improve curriculum pacing, increase student learning, and position the district for a smooth transition to increased student in-person capacity, the district will begin requiring the teaching staff to provide “live streaming” synchronous lessons five days per week. This will allow for the students that are not in-person at school to log in and participate in the daily lessons. For example, a “B” day student will log in and participate virtually in the “A” day live lesson and vice versa. This instructional shift will begin for the Main Road and Caroline L. Reutter Schools on February 1st and the Mary F. Janvier School on March 1st. We currently have approximately 60% percent of the teaching staff already using “live streaming” of lessons, so for a lot of students this will not be much of an adjustment. **It is very important for the students to attend the “live” lessons.** However, the lessons will be recorded and posted on Google Classrooms for the students that miss the “live” lesson time. The building principals will provide building specific schedules. As always, I encourage parents to reach out to your child’s teachers with any questions.

COVID-19 DISTRICT UPDATE

To date, the Township of Franklin Public School District has experienced a total of **42 positive COVID-19** cases since September 1, 2020. In efforts to keep the community up to date and informed, we have added a [COVID case tracker](#) link to the main page of the district website. The COVID tracker provides up to date totals of positive COVID cases within the schools, along with the number of current active cases. It is important to remember that just because a case may be considered “active”, that doesn’t automatically mean there was potential exposure at school. In several of our current active cases, the individuals were not in school since the winter recess or is in our all-remote instructional model.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE

The New Jersey Department of Health updated its guidance in regards to children having COVID-19 like symptoms and their return to school. [In a letter sent to school districts](#), the NJDOH, is now recommending that any child with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should not return to school until they have a negative COVID test or have completed a 10-day isolation period. With that, we cannot thank our parents/guardians enough for keeping the district informed and for being responsible in keeping children home when they are feeling ill. If you have questions regarding testing, testing sites, quarantining requirements, and the latest county case data, please visit <http://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/depts/h/hedss/coronavirus.asp>

COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

The New Jersey Department of Health has begun administering COVID-19 vaccinations. For more information, including registering for the vaccination, please visit <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES-(Update)

As you were aware, beginning Monday, January 4th, we deployed the use of the individual desk dividers. We could not be prouder of the students as they quickly adapted to this additional safety measure. As you can see in the pictures below, each child has their own divider, labeled with their name. The dividers are left in school and properly cleaned prior to their return. It is our hope that this additional safety measure will keep the students and staff members healthy.



PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION

As we return to session from our winter recess, it is especially important for parents/guardians to communicate with the school district in the case of a positive COVID test result and/or the need to quarantine due to possible exposure. If your child or someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19, or has been identified by the Department of Health as a “close contact”, please contact the school nurse or the main office of your child’s school immediately. This will assist us in keeping all staff and students safe.

DISTRICT GOOGLE CALENDAR

For your reference, the district Google Calendar has the daily Hybrid Cohort schedule listed. The district Google Calendar can be found on our main webpage at <http://www.franklintwpschools.org/calendar>

HEADPHONES REQUIRED AND AVAILABLE FOR USE-(Reminder)

The teaching staff members have reported that students using headphones while on Google Meets are more focused and less distracted. In efforts to support our students in learning, the district has purchased headphones that are compatible for use with the Chromebooks. A friendly reminder that **we are now requiring students to use headphones while on Google Meet sessions**. If your child needs a pair of headphones, please contact the school's main office and a set will be provided.

INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS

A friendly reminder that the calendar has been adjusted to notify parents/guardians that **in the case of inclement weather the district will switch to an all remote day rather than the cancellation of school**.

Our school district is here to support our students and the school community. Our faculty and staff continue to work hard to make the best of this difficult situation. Please let us know how we can be of any assistance.

Yours in education,



Mr. Troy Walton
Superintendent of Schools