



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

December 10, 2020

Dear Township of Franklin Public Schools Community,

We are currently in **Week 15** of the 2020-2021 school year and the winter break is right around the corner. Miraculously, we have only had very minimal disruptions to the Hybrid learning model this school year. This is attributed to everyone's hard work and diligence in following the guidelines set forth in our reopening of schools plan. We cannot thank you enough! It is our hope that you are able to safely and responsibly enjoy time with family and loved ones this holiday season. Listed below are some district updates to keep you informed.

WINTER BREAK- DISTRICT SCHEDULE-IMPORTANT

| | |
|--|---|
| Monday, December 21 st | Cohorts A & C (in-person)/Cohort B (virtual) |
| Tuesday, December 22 nd | Cohorts B & C (in-person)/Cohort A (virtual) |
| Wednesday, December 23 rd | ALL STUDENTS VIRTUAL (1/2 DAY OF INSTRUCTION) |
| Thursday, December 24 th | Winter Break begins |
| Monday, January 4 th | District Reopens-Hybrid Schedule Resumes with Cohorts A & C (in-person)/Cohort B (virtual) |

COVID-19 DISTRICT UPDATE

At the time of this update, the Township of Franklin Public School District has experienced a total of **12 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. We have been very fortunate that these cases have not had a major impact on the daily operations of our school district. Please be assured that district officials are in constant communication with the county health department and will yield to their recommendations in regards to actions and communications that are necessary. We cannot thank our parents/guardians enough for keeping the district informed and for being responsible and keeping children home when they are feeling ill.

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>

BE PREPARED WITH ALTERNATE PLANS

As stated above, the district is yielding to the advice/recommendations of the Gloucester County Department of Health in regards to anything COVID related. As cases are on the rise, it is important that parents/guardians are prepared with alternate plans in the case that the district needs to switch to an all-remote learning model.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WEBSITE

The Gloucester County Department of Health website is an excellent resource for COVID-19 information. 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>

END OF 1ST TRIMESTER/REPORT CARDS

The first Trimester officially ended on December 8th. All of the first Trimester grades will be posted and available for parents/guardians to view via the Realtime Parent portal on December 15th. A link to access the Realtime Parent Portal is available on the district website under the parents/students tab. A hard copy of your child's report card is available upon request.

RESOURCE CENTER STUDENTS

The district is continually assessing the ability to increase the in-person instructional time with our students. With that, the Child Study Team is currently developing an adjusted Hybrid schedule for all of the fully resource center students that would increase in-person instructional time to four days per week. Mrs. Dobzanski has sent out a survey to all of the parents/guardians of the fully resource center students. If you have received this survey, kindly respond to the survey as soon as possible. The information gathered will allow us to take another step toward increasing in-person instructional time.

HEADPHONES REQUIRED AND AVAILABLE FOR USE

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. **Moving forward, we are 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.

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR- The 2020-2021 Teachers of the Year were announced last week. The Teachers of the Year will be recognized at the February Board of Education meeting. Please join me in congratulating the following.....

Mary F. Janvier School- Ms. Rachel Burrell

Main Road School- Mrs. Melissa Vandine

Caroline L. Reutter School- Mrs. Kelly Brown

Educational Services Professional-Ms. Nichole Bonjean

PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION

It is very 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 immediately. This will assist us in keeping all staff and students safe.

GOOGLE MEETS-VIRTUAL WEDNESDAYS

A friendly reminder to all parents/guardians that Virtual Wednesdays are not designed as “catch up” or “make up” work days. Wednesdays are instructional days with the teaching staff providing virtual instruction that may include new content being taught. **Student attendance at scheduled Google Meet sessions is mandatory.** It is important for students to be engaged and login to all Google Meet sessions that are scheduled for Wednesdays.

INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS

In preparation for the winter months and the possibility of inclement weather, 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. Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Yours in education,



Mr. Troy Walton
Superintendent of Schools