



TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Township of Franklin Public Schools Community,

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we navigate these unprecedented challenges within our community. After consultation with local officials, the county health department, and other school district leaders in Gloucester County, we feel it is in the best interest of the staff and students to close the district in efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The teaching staff will finalize virtual lesson plans during Monday's professional development day. Then, beginning on **Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the Township of Franklin Public Schools will begin using our Distance Learning Plan**. As of now, distance learning will continue for two weeks. However, please be aware that this situation is changing day by day and the distance learning may need to be extended.

SCHEDULE

- Monday, March 16th -**Teaching staff** report for in-service day; finalize virtual lesson plans
-Students will **not** report; however, **students needing to retrieve personal items or school materials may do so during normal school hours.**
- Tuesday, March 17th -**Distance Learning begins.** District will be officially closed (only identified essential personnel will report).
- Monday, March 30th -Tentative date that the **district is scheduled to reopen.** However, we will continue to consult with the GCDOH to determine if school should resume or if distance learning should be extended.

COMMUNICATION

In efforts to keep everyone up-to-date with current information and provide educational resources, the district is in the process of creating a **Distance Learning Webpage** that can be accessed from the district website at www.franklintwpschools.org. This webpage will have resources for parents, students and staff. We are working diligently to have this page up and running as soon as possible and will continue

to post additional content during the course of the district closure. Please don't hesitate to contact us with suggestions for resources or content that may be helpful for everyone.

DISTANCE LEARNING

In preparation for this closure, the teaching staff members have created virtual lesson plans. Below you will find additional information and procedures to assist students and families with remote learning:

- **Mary F. Janvier School**-Daily assignments will be posted on the teachers' webpages by 9:15 a.m. each day. You can find each teacher's webpage under the parents/students tab on the Mary F. Janvier website <http://janvier.franklintwpschools.org/>
- **Main Road School**- Daily assignments will be posted on the teachers' Google Classroom by 8:15 a.m. Your child has the code for their respective teachers' Google Classroom, however, please feel free to email your child's teacher if you need the code. Teacher email addresses can be found under the staff directory tab on the district website www.franklintwpschools.org
- **Caroline L. Reutter School**- Daily assignments will be posted on the teachers' Google Classroom by 7:15 a.m. Your child has the code for their respective teachers' Google Classroom, however, please feel free to email your child's teacher if you need the code. Teacher email addresses can be found under the staff directory tab on the district website www.franklintwpschools.org

All Schools-Teachers will be available (remotely) to answer any questions about the assignments, provide additional support, and review what assignments have been completed. The best way to communicate with your child's teacher is to send an email to their school email address. The majority of the students will be able to communicate with their teacher through Google Classroom. Please expect additional communication from your child's school regarding building level specific information related to remote learning and/or any other topics related to your child's education.

180 School Day Count-A Distance Learning Plan has been submitted to the Gloucester County Department of Education. We anticipate the plan's approval which means, beginning Tuesday, March 17th, the distance learning days will count towards the State of New Jersey's 180 school day requirement. The distance learning days will not need to be rescheduled (as in the case of a typical inclement weather day closure).

DEVICES/INTERNET ACCESS

- **Chromebooks**-All of the students in grades 3 through 6 have a district issued Chromebook. For the parents of **Mary F. Janvier School** children-if your child does not have a device to use for remote learning at home, please contact the school's main office. A loaner Chromebook will be assigned to you.

- **Internet Access-** For the families that do not have internet access, Comcast is offering free internet service for two months. More information can be found at <https://www.internetessentials.com/>

STUDENT SERVICES

- **Staff-** Student services and school counselors will maintain contact with students/families, as needed through emails and phone calls. This contact will be related to the academic, IEP related items, social and emotional needs of our students. Please do not hesitate to email any of these staff members if you need assistance.
- **District and Building Administration-** will be available to all families through email and calls directly to your child's school. Be sure to contact your child's principal if you have additional questions about or concerns with your child's remote learning.
- **Technology Support-** we are currently exploring the best methods to provide remote technology support for both staff and students. Once decisions are made, technology support information will be posted on the Distance Learning webpage.
- **Food Service-** we are currently working with our food service provider, NutriServe, to assess our capabilities to meet the nutritional needs of identified students. Once decisions are made, information will be posted on the Distance Learning webpage.

I will continue to update our community members on a regular basis. Again, our district website will serve as the main resource for updates and we will continue to utilize our School Messenger System, as well as social media, to keep you informed. If you have not done so yet, please follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Finally, as we move forward, our school district is here to support our students and school community. Our faculty and staff have worked hard to prepare for the next two weeks and we will continue to do so for the benefit of our students. We take this responsibility seriously and thank you for your support.

Yours in education,



Mr. Troy Walton
Superintendent of Schools