



TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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November 19, 2020

Dear Township of Franklin Public Schools Community,

We are currently in **Week 11** of the 2020-2021 school year and the Thanksgiving recess is upon us. Although this year has been far from perfect, this is a perfect time of year to reflect on the good and focus on what we are thankful for. It is our hope that you are able to safely and responsibly enjoy time with family and loved ones. Listed below are some district updates to keep you informed.

THANKSGIVING WEEK- DISTRICT SCHEDULE-IMPORTANT

Monday, November 23rd Cohorts A & C (in-person)/Cohort B (virtual)
Tuesday, November 24th Cohorts B & C (in-person)/Cohort A (virtual)
Wednesday, November 25th ALL STUDENTS VIRTUAL (1/2 DAY OF INSTRUCTION)
Thursday, November 26th Thanksgiving Break/District Closed
Friday, November 27th Thanksgiving Break/District closed

***All Hybrid Kindergarten students will report for in-person instruction on Monday and Tuesday**

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>

COVID-19 DISTRICT UPDATE

As reported to the Board of Education at Monday's meeting, the Township of Franklin Public School District has experienced a total of **4 positive COVID-19** cases since September 1, 2020. We have been very fortunate that these cases have not had an impact on the daily operations of our school district. In fact, only 1 of these positive cases resulted in the need to conduct contact tracing with students. We cannot thank our parents/guardians enough for being responsible and keeping children home when they are feeling ill.

CONTACT TRACING/COMMUNICATION WITH DELSEA REGIONAL

Please be assured that we are aware that the Delsea Regional School District is experiencing an increase in COVID cases. Our school nurses, who serve as the district contact tracers, have been in constant communication with the school nurses from the Delsea Regional School District to ensure quarantining of siblings is being enforced.

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.

ON THE HORIZON

The district is continually assessing the ability to increase the in-person instructional time with all students. **Our mindset continues to be focused on safely getting 100% of the students in school, 100% of the time.** With that, the district has used federal funding to purchase additional individual student desk dividers. This will position us to be able to increase the student capacity in the schools and increase in-person instructional time. We will continue to closely monitor the community COVID-19 transmission rates and consult with the county health officials for guidance prior to making any decisions regarding schedule changes. More information will be communicated when it becomes available.

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.**

HYBRID KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS SHIFT TO FOUR DAYS PER WEEK

As a follow-up to the last community update, we have safely adjusted the **Kindergarten Hybrid model to four half-days per week.** The increase in the in-person instructional time was achievable due to the low Kindergarten enrollment, coupled with the purchase of individual desk dividers. So far so good! Thank you to the all of the parents and staff members that assisted us in making this a smooth transition.

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.

Our school district is here to support our students and the school community. Our faculty and staff are working 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 Thanksgiving Holiday.

Yours in education,



Mr. Troy Walton
Superintendent of Schools