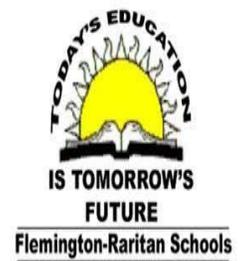


Flemington-Raritan Regional School District  
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September 18, 2020

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents and Community Members,

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused our families to turn living rooms into classrooms and required students to take on new lives balancing their studies with the COVID-19 pandemic impacts. I understand this has been no easy feat.

Over the course of the past month, the District has spent time re-evaluating our situation concerning reopening schools to our students and entirely to staff and faculty. Delivering remote instruction for all students has not taken away the district planning for the time when all students can return to school. The district has been working in collaboration with our staff, FREA union, and community stakeholders to reopen our school doors to students using the cohort model while allowing families that selected a virtual-only learning model to continue with all-remote instruction.

This week, administrators, building union representatives, and Board of Education members all participated in walkthroughs in all schools, with the exception of Francis A. Desmares Elementary School. (Francis A Desmares' walkthrough is scheduled for September 30th.) Everyone worked together to ensure that our buildings are safe for students and staff to return.

We are moving through our reopening ladder from Tier Two to Tier Three, reopening to students in a hybrid model with students in-person one week and virtually the next week. Tier Three allows the district to open fully to staff and faculty. (See the [Return to School Ladder \(slide ten of the Superintendent's Report\)](#)).

I am pleased to announce that the district has received all of the ordered personal protective equipment. We have received touchless hand-sanitizer stations and individual plexiglass dividers, hand sanitizer, adult masks, N95 masks, adult reusable face shields, pediatric reusable face shields, vinyl gloves, pediatric masks, and personal protective equipment gowns.

Below are upcoming dates with important, but general information. **Your child's building principal will provide specific details unique to each school to staff and parents beginning next week with more details the following week.**

**September 21**

- Our neediest special education students will return to all buildings, with the exception of Francis A. Desmares Elementary School. (FAD has no students assigned to self-contained classrooms.)
- Preschool students will return to Copper Hill Elementary School.
- Dedicated staff and faculty will be on-site in all schools for in-person learning to support the first group of students returning for in-person instruction.

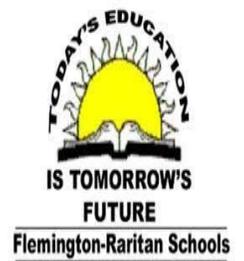
**October 1**

- I will recommend to the Board of Education to approve the Hybrid A/B model plan at the Board of Education meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 1st.

**October 5**

- The district will switch to a hybrid schedule, using the alternating, A/B week, cohort model.

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- Students in specific grades will be phased back into the buildings for in-person learning. We are preparing for *at least* grades Kindergarten (K) and one (1) and most likely other grade levels. Next Friday, September 25th, I will share specific grade levels scheduled to return for in-person learning beginning on October 5th.
- Moving forward with phasing students back for in-person learning, parents who selected all virtual instruction for their child will continue with remote instruction.
- All faculty and staff will return to campus for in-person instruction unless the staff member has been granted an accommodation as guided by the United States Department of Labor using the guidance of [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) (FFCRA or Act).

The District plans to return students to school ahead of the original goal of November 2. Using a phasing in model to return students for in-person instruction, the district is preparing for the week of October 5th to return the second phase of students, with the third phase on October 12, 2020. Students will return using a cohort A/B model for grades Pre-K through grade 8.

Dates	Grades	Cohort A	Cohort B
Week of October 5	To be announced	Phasing in of students	Phasing in of students
Week of October 12	K-8	In-Person Learning	All Remote Learning
Week of October 19	K-8	All Remote Learning	In-Person learning
Week of October 26	K-8	In-Person learning	All Remote Learning
Week of November 2	K-8	All Remote Learning	In-Person learning

The schedule will continue for the weeks following November 2nd, with cohorts rotating between attending in-person and all virtual remote instruction. Students who elected to remain all virtual will continue remote instruction.

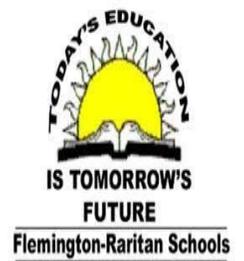
As we are planning to bring students back for in-person learning, be mindful of travel plans between states. Governor Murphy continues to add states on the travel advisory list. States that are on the travel advisory list advise all individuals entering New Jersey from states with a significant spread of COVID-19 to quarantine for 14-days after leaving the state. As of September 15th, there are currently 30 states that meet the criteria for advisory travel. See the link [here](#) for New Jersey travel information. Fortunately, Pennsylvania and New York are not on the list. Delaware *was* re-added on September 8, 2020. We need our students back in our schools, beginning for some students on Monday, September 21st, and other students on October 5th.

To continue to support instruction, safety, and social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable, families that selected an all virtual remote learning schedule must remain in an all-virtual remote learning schedule until December 4, 2020. Prior to December 4th, the district will survey parents to determine which families want their child to change to in-person learning. In-person learning will have the option to switch to all virtual if the need arises to support health and safety.

Below are additional reminders:

- The district will continue to operate on an early dismissal schedule as grade levels return to school.

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- Parents who opted for children to be fully virtual, regardless of our reopening plans, will remain fully virtual. Families who prefer in-person learning for their child(ren) will be permitted to transition to in-person learning for the second trimester.
- A policy for screening students and employees is required by the New Jersey Department of Education Road Back Restart and Recovery Plan for Education. Parents will be required to log in to Genesis each morning to fill out the COVID-19 daily pre-screening form. A Genesis announcement will come to parents a few days prior to the child's first start in school to practice submitting the screening tool. Parents will be required to complete a self-administered screening for their child every day prior to their child attending school or arriving on school grounds. Students who have not submitted their form each day will not be permitted to participate in their program until the form is submitted. Each day students will need to be screened for COVID-19 symptoms. These include fever above 100.4 degrees, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, shortness of breath, a new loss of smell or taste. Your child's temperature will also need to be recorded on the screening form.
- Students are required to wear a mask. Guidance from the Hunterdon County Health Department continues to advise that neck gaiters, bandanas, and masks with vents are unacceptable face coverings.

The district continues to need substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. If you know someone who has 60 college credits, please encourage them to contact the district for more information. We look forward to welcoming our students back for in-person learning using our phase-in process. The district will continue to send out communications as we proudly welcome students back to campus for in-person learning. I thank you for your resilience as we navigate this ever-changing situation.

Conditions for learning must not only address students' basic physical safety needs, but also the social and emotional environmental factors that can impact educators' capacity to teach and students' capacity to learn. The district is preparing for athletics to resume following the [New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association \(NJSIAA\)](#) guidelines and reopening protocols. The Sports Advisory Task Force, convened by the NJSIAA, has allowed sports to resume for those school districts who are providing in-person learning and for recreational and community sports organizations. Flemington-Raritan Regional School District is not yet in Tier 4 to allow our school athletics programs to resume; however, the district supports the work of NJSIAA to return to sports while following the return-to-play guidelines, especially for our recreational and community programs.

I hope that you are all happy, safe, and healthy and can take some time to relax this weekend and enjoy the beautiful fall weather. I look forward to sharing more information with families next Friday.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kari McGann  
Superintendent of Schools