

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools
50 Court Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1300
Phone: (908) 284-7561 Fax: (908) 284-7656
kmcgann@frsd.k12.nj.us



May 14, 2021

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

As we move from the pandemic crisis, we are focusing on the opportunity to rebuild and improve student well-being. The district is planning for a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools with students attending school for full days in September. While there has not been any detailed, official guidance from the State of New Jersey regarding the operation of schools in the fall, we know we must develop a safe return plan per the New Jersey Department of Education. By the end of June 2021, I will make publicly available our safe return plan titled, *From Crisis to Opportunity: Rebuilding to Improve Student Well-Being*.

While awaiting more guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education, our district began thinking about what rebuilding might look like. Our district knew we must prepare to support not just the academic, but the social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students. Utilizing the funds the district anticipates receiving from the Education and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER), the district will address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our districts' students.

Our plan will focus on responding to the impacts of the COVID-19 on educators, students, and families. The district plans to respond to the crisis, to rebuild, to improve student well-being by implementing evidence-based interventions such as summer learning and summer enrichment, comprehensive after-school programs, extended school year programs, and interventions that respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs. Our work will address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on under-represented student groups. A sample of opportunities planned for this summer includes summer mathematics, literacy learning clubs, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) clubs, extended school year summer programs to provide specialized instruction and related services to students based on their individual education plan and supplemental services programs.

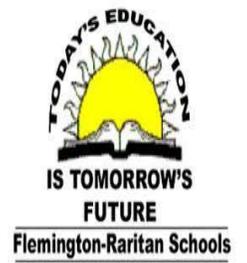
In the absence of specific guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education, we still have questions concerning the fall. For instance, it may be that we are required to offer a virtual instruction or home instruction program for students who are medically fragile or have severe medical conditions. No criteria have been set by the state in regard to allowing for a virtual option, but we have come to understand that it may be limited to only student cases of chronic illness. The district continues to plan and develop other ideas around virtual learning. Moreover, the district does not have any official word on mask-wearing or quarantine for close contact for September. We continue to follow the Governor's Executive Order 192 and contact trace positive cases, as described below. Our protocols will be updated for the fall, as needed. We intend to communicate protocols and procedures in our *From Crisis to Opportunity: Rebuilding to Improve Student Well-Being* plan.

COVID-19 Update:

Our Central West region continues to improve. Each week, the Department of Health provides information on the COVID-19 transmission at the regional level published through the CALI report. The [COVID-19 report](#) shows our Central West region remains in the "yellow." All indicators; Case Rate, Percent CLI, and Percent Positivity rates decreased with the Percent Positivity rate now in the "low" activity level, identified as "green."

The District received notice of one new positive COVID-19 case of a staff member at Francis A. Desmares School who was last in the building on May 12. A current count of reported COVID-19 cases is posted on the [District website](#). To find the current count of reported COVID-19 cases visit the district homepage and click on the headline

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that reads Current COVID-19 count. The chart is updated by the end of each day in which a case is reported to the Superintendent.

My best to all our families for a wonderful weekend. It is my great honor to continue to serve the district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kari McGann".

Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools