

September 25, 2020

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

At the October 1 Board of Education meeting, I will recommend to the Board to approve the Hybrid A/B model plan. Please remember that as the district continues to phase in more grade levels of students for in-person learning, all parents still have the option for their child to remain in an all remote learning option. **All students are eligible to participate in full-time remote learning.**

Below are four important updates:

1. **Hybrid Schedule** - The District is scheduled to move from Tier Two to Tier Three on the Return to School Ladder, reopening to students who selected in-person learning using a hybrid model with students in-person one week and learning remotely the following week. (See the [Return to School Ladder \(slide ten of the Superintendent's Report\)](#)). Students have been divided into two groups -- Cohort A and Cohort B -- with one group attending in-person and the other group receiving remote instruction. The cohorts will alternate weekly between in-person and remote learning to allow for social distancing. Students will have synchronous and asynchronous learning.

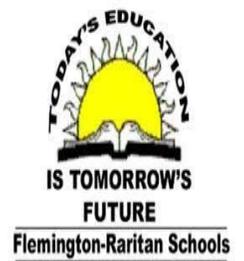
Children who report to school for in-person learning will follow the school's early dismissal times for the start and end of the in-person learning day. Bus pick up and drop off times and locations have been communicated by the Transportation Department. Parents should adjust afternoon bus drop off times to account for the early dismissal schedule. For specific questions regarding your child's bus stop, contact the Transportation Department at 908-284-7154.

Beginning October 5:

- The district will switch to a cohort A/B hybrid schedule with students alternating between in-person and remote instruction. Students in specific grades will be phased back into the buildings for in-person learning.
- We are welcoming Kindergarten (K) and First Grade Cohort A and Grades 5, 6, 7, & 8 Cohort B to begin in-person learning. Building principals will provide specific details unique to each school beginning next week regarding cohorts and specific building schedules.

Date	Grades	Cohort A	Cohort B
October 5-6	K-1	In-Person	Remote Learning
October 7	K-1	Remote Learning - Cleaning of Buildings	
October 8-9	K-1	Remote Learning	In-Person
Week of October 5-9	2-4	Remote Learning	
Week of October 5-9	5-8	Remote Learning	In-Person
Week of October 12	K-8	In-Person	Remote Learning
Week of October 19	K-8	Remote Learning	In-Person
Week of October 26	K-8	In-Person	Remote Learning
Week of November 2	K-8	Remote Learning	In-Person
Week of November 9	K-8	In-Person	Remote Learning
Week of November 16	K-8	Remote Learning	In-Person
*** Parents who selected all-virtual instruction for their child will continue with all-remote learning.***			

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2. **Health & Safety** - The District continues to put the safety of students and staff as our highest priority. There are four safety principles to reopening with confidence as per our district reopening plan. We continue to focus every effort on ensuring our students' access and participation to access the New Jersey Learning Standards, provide student access to full-time remote learning, and our community's safety and well-being by adhering to the standards and guidelines of the District's reopening plan and the New Jersey Department of Education's Road Back Restart and Recovery Plan for Education, as well as the guidance from the Hunterdon County Health Department.

Parents who would like to request that their child transition from all-remote learning to the in-person A/B model for the current trimester must contact their child's building principal by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30. When considering ways to accommodate parents' new requests for their child to transition from all-remote learning to in-person learning, schools will likely need to assign students to different teachers and schedules to accommodate the transition while adhering to health and safety principles as described below. To support students and families the Board of Education is drafting and reviewing policies to address parents' requests and unique needs during these unprecedented times, including procedures for submitting requests to transition from full-time remote learning to in-person services and the transition from full-time remote learning from in-person learning during trimesters two, beginning December 4, 2020, and trimester three, beginning March 15, 2020.

While transitioning to in-person learning for students we must provide for the health and safety of our staff, students, and faculty while implementing a cohesive, consistent educational program amid a global pandemic.

Safety Principle 1: Reduce crowds and close contact.

- All staff, faculty, and students must wear a mask at all times while on campus and on the school bus. Mask breaks are allowed behind closed doors alone or socially distanced outside. (It is necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of a mask may be impractical for children with disabilities or in the case where a mask inhibits the individual's health. Please speak with your school nurse if your child falls into this category.)
- Face Shields for those that are medically fragile
- Social distancing (6-foot rule) to the maximum extent practical
- Use of plexiglass barriers in high touch areas and for significantly medical fragile staff, faculty, and students.
- Classroom redesigns
- Reducing the movement of students
- One-way hallways and stairwells, where possible.
- Identifying possible "shifts" of staff and students (i.e. A/B Day)
- Reduction in students in areas such as cafeterias, gyms, recess

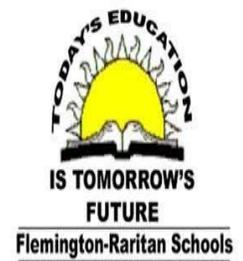
Safety Principle 2: Reduce the mixing of students.

- Cohorting and pods of students
- Reducing the movement of students
- One-way and limit students in hallways and stairwells, where possible
- Designate entry and exit points

Safety Principle 3: Monitor the prevalence of symptoms and spread in the schools and community.

- Daily "symptom-free" assurances from families and staff
- Periodic temperature checks
- Educate children (and staff training) about signs and symptoms

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- Isolation areas

Safety Principle 4: Sanitize, disinfect, and enhance cleaning protocols

- Personal hygiene
- Custodial sanitation and new standard protocols
- Wipes, cleaners, sanitizing stations for use by students and staff
- Touchless hand sanitizer stations installed inside classrooms appropriately placed to meet the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) *
- Area audits to reduce problematic surfaces
- High touch and communal areas will have increased cleaning frequency (OT/PT, therapy rooms, classrooms with 1:1 services, autism, multiple disabled student classrooms)

3. Student Daily COVID Health Screening Form - Any student attending school in-person is required to submit a daily health screening form EACH DAY ***before*** coming to school. Next Wednesday, September 30, parents will be asked to submit the daily COVID form for their child to practice the submission procedure. A screening procedure to screen for symptoms of COVID-19 is required by the New Jersey Department of Education for all schools that deliver in-person learning. Submission of a practice screening form allows building principals to support families that need assistance completing the daily COVID form. More information will arrive to parents from the building principal.

A school nurse and members of the health and hygiene team will be onsite and will be reviewing screenings as students arrive at school. **Please complete the daily screening each morning for each of your children.** If your child shows up to school without a completed form, a parent will be contacted and the child will not be permitted to begin their in-person learning program. Step-by-step instructions, with screenshots, are included in this week's Headlines for your reference. The steps are also noted below:

1. Log into the [Parent Portal](#):
2. An alert will pop up, indicating that the Daily COVID Form is required.
3. Click on the "Daily COVID Form" to begin.
4. Answer all questions honestly and thoroughly. When done, sign by selecting **"YES - Complete Form"** at the bottom of the form and **"Update Answers."**
5. If you have multiple children attending, this form must be submitted for EACH child.

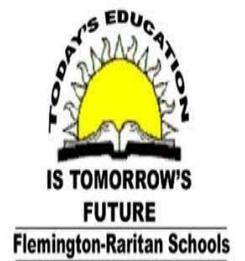
4. Meal Distribution - Free breakfasts and lunches are available to all students, those attending in-person and those attending remotely, through December 31, 2020. Please see the flyer on page three (3) for specific information about meal distribution.

My best to all of our families and my hope that you are all happy, safe, and healthy.

Wishing you well,

Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools

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**FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
available to all students,
through December 31, 2020**

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

September 29 – Tuesday
(Food for the remainder of week)

- Virtual Students and PK – Main Pick up Location
 - RFIS - **11:30 am - 3:00 pm**
- Virtual Students and PK - Pick up also Available **2:00 – 2:30 pm @**
 - Copper Hill School
 - Barley Sheaf School
 - Francis A. Desmares School
 - Robert Hunter School
- Selected K-4 - Eat In School - Pre-order w/teacher
- Selected 5-8 - Pre-order w/teacher Grab-n-Go at dismissal

October 2 - Friday
(Food for the week of 10/5)

- Virtual Students and PK beginning 10/5 – Pick up @
 - RFIS - **2:00 - 3:30 pm** (5 days' worth of food)
- In school K-4 beginning 10/5 - Eat In School
Pre-order w/teacher
- In school 5-8 beginning 10/5 - Grab-n-Go at dismissal

October 9 – Friday **
(Food for the week of 10/12)

- Virtual Students and PK (5 days' worth of food)
 - K-4 – Pick up at your school **1:20 – 3:00**
 - 5-8 – Pick up at your school **12:45 – 2:15**
- In school K-4 beginning 10/12 - Eat In School
Pre-order w/teacher
- In school 5-8 beginning 10/12 - Grab-n-Go at dismissal

****Continuing every Friday during the Hybrid Schedule**

**Please contact Nadine Schnappauf at nschnapp@frsd.k12.nj.us
with any questions**

**Free & Reduced Applicants MUST continue to provide their
completed application to the school district.**

Free and Reduced Lunch Packet