

TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Troy Walton, Superintendent Trish Birmingham, Board Secretary/SBA

Dear Township of Franklin Public Schools Community,

Today is **Day 8** of our Distance Learning Experience. Again, we cannot thank you enough for your cooperation, support and patience in dealing with this difficult situation. As promised, we are striving to provide you with the all of the information and tools you need to assist your child in learning from home. On a side note, the distance learning pictures that you are sending in are AWESOME! Keep them coming, we are posting them in the scrolling photo gallery at the top of our Distance Learning web page.

SCHOOLS TO REMAIN CLOSED

As you are aware, Governor Murphy has signed several executive orders in efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. According to executive order #104, all New Jersey schools are to **remain closed as long as the order is in effect.** With that, the Township of Franklin Public Schools will remain closed until directed otherwise from Governor Murphy's office. In recent comments, the Governor suggested that New Jersey residents should expect schools in the state to remain closed for a "long and extended period of time" and won't be reopened "until such time as deemed by health officials to be safe for classes to resume". Please be assured that information will be shared as it becomes available.

NO STATE STANDARDIZED TESTING

On March 24, 2020 the New Jersey Department of Education released a broadcast memo canceling all state standardized testing scheduled for spring of 2020. This is a much needed relief for students, parents and staff.

2nd TRIMESTER REPORT CARDS

The second trimester report card information is now available through the Realtime parent portal. Please note, that given the current situation, hard copies of report cards will not be mailed out but will be available upon return to normal school operations. Please contact the school's main office if you need your Realtime username and password information.

DISTANCE LEARNING WEBPAGE

A friendly reminder that the district has launched a **Distance Learning Web page**. On this page you will find staff contact information, teacher assignment expectations, technology support and a variety of tips and resources to assist you in making a meaningful and engaging distance learning experience. This page will consistently be updated so please visit this site often. Distance Learning Web Page

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

In addition to the Distance Learning Page, the district has complied a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document. The FAQs document can be found on the Distance Learning web page and will be updated as additional questions arise. Please feel free to contact us with suggestions for the FAQs document. Frequently Asked Questions

COMMUNICATION

A friendly reminder that 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. However, the majority of the students will be able to communicate with their teacher through Google Classroom. Also, the district is currently exploring options for video conferencing that will allow the teaching staff the ability to have live video conversations with the students. More information to follow when it becomes available.

MORNING ANNOUCNMENTS

All three school principals are producing video morning announcements to keep the students in the loop of school information. Links to all of the morning announcements can be found at the bottom of the Student Resources Page from the Distance Learning Page. Check them out!

FOOD SERVICE

During the district closure, our food service provider, NutriServe, will provide "grab and go" lunches for our students in the free/reduced lunch program. Currently, the lunches are available for pick up at the Janvier School, Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to Noon. However, staff members will be contacting all eligible families to discuss additional options necessary to meet the nutritional needs of our students. The food service schedule is likely to be adjusted. Please know that even if you are not in the free/reduced lunch program and you need food support, we are here to help. Contact your child's school counselor or building principal if you need assistance. There is also a list of local food pantries posted on the Distance Learning web page.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

The technology department will be available daily. The technology department can be reached by email at techsupport@franklintwpschools.org or phone 856-629-9500 Ext. 5000. It is important to know that our technology department will only be able to address questions related to our district assigned devices and software applications that our students are using; they will not be able to address home

networking questions. However, questions about accessing Google Classroom, the teacher website, iReady, and/or other instructional based programs should first be directed to your child's teacher.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The state has set up resources for community members looking for work. Please visit the websites below for more information.

- Looking for employment? STATE OF NEW JERSEY COVID-19 JOBS AND HIRING PORTAL https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov/
- Looking to hire? COVID-19 ON DEMAND HIRING INTAKE FORM https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov/intake

I will continue to update our school community as information becomes available. Please be assured that our school district is here to support our students and school community. Our faculty and staff is working hard to make the best of this Distance Learning experience. Please let us know how we can be of an assistance.

Yours in education,

Log Walton

Mr. Troy Walton

Superintendent of Schools