



TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Township of Franklin Public Schools Community,

We are now in **Week 3** 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.

STATE AND FEDERAL MESSAGES

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, last week the governor tweeted out a message that stated the decision to reopen school districts rests with him and he will not revisit the decision until April 17th at the earliest. In addition to the governor's message, the federal government announced that "social distancing" will remain effect until April 30th. Again, I urge parents/guardians to be prepared for Distance Learning to continue for a prolonged period of time.

INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATES

"Live" Video Conferencing/Classes-In efforts to adjust and refine our online instructional practices, the district will begin using Goggle Meet to provide "live" video conferencing and lessons. Please know that the technology abilities of our staff members differ and that some teaching staff members may be using this method of instruction more than others. Also, it is important to know that the **"live" video conferences or classes will be recorded** and posted on the teachers' websites or Google Classrooms as a reference for the students. This is especially important for the students that may not be available during the actual "live" conference time. Your child will not be penalized if they are unable to participate in the "live" video conference. If you have questions or concerns regarding the use of "live" video conferencing, please contact your child's principal.

Work Session Wednesdays-Moving forward, Wednesdays will be designated as "Work Session Wednesdays". The teaching staff members will not post any new assignments on Wednesdays. Instead, this time will be used for the students to complete any missing assignments, allow for the teachers to conduct small group or individual video instruction, and allow the district time to provide training and support for the staff.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Unfortunately, the in-person Kindergarten registration sessions scheduled for April 28th and May 4th have been canceled. We continue to urge parents of Kindergarten aged children to complete the online pre-registration form-[Click here for the form](#). More information will be provided in regards to Kindergarten registration as it becomes available.

FOOD SERVICE

IMPORTANT UPDATE- As previously reported, our food service provider, NutriServe, is providing “grab and go” lunches for our students in the free/reduced lunch program. Last week, staff members contacted all eligible families to discuss additional options necessary to meet the nutritional needs of our students. Using the information gained, we have adjusted the food service schedule. Beginning this week, **the lunches will be available for pick up on Mondays and Wednesdays only between 10:00 am and noon**. In addition, we have set up a delivery option for those families without the means to pick up lunches. 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. For your reference, there is a list of local food pantries posted on the Distance Learning web page.

SPRING BREAK

Friendly reminder that the district will be closed for the spring recess from **Friday, April 10th through Friday, April 17th**. Please know that distance learning will not occur during the spring recess. Unless otherwise notified, distance learning will resume on Monday, April 20th.

DISTANCE LEARNING WEBPAGE

A friendly reminder to continue using the **Distance Learning Web page** as means to stay informed. During the first week of our distance learning experience the district website had over 14,000 views. Thank you! 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 compiled a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document. The FAQs document can be found on the Distance Learning web page and has been updated with additional information. Please feel free to contact us with suggestions for the FAQs document. [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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

Employment 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>

Childcare for Essential Employees Resource- A state produced list of childcare providers can be found at the web link below.

- https://www.nj.gov/dcf/coronavirus_licensedchildcare.html

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. Stay safe.

Yours in education,



Mr. Troy Walton
Superintendent of Schools