

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Flyers:

High Focus is offering a free webinar on May 11th entitled "Coping with COVID-19: Helping Your Family Adapt to a New Normal." Pre-registration is required. Details [here](#).

Medical and Emotional Health Contacts:

FIS, Nurse Susan Scalgione: susans@freeholdboro.k12.nj.us

PAE, Nurse Marta Horvath: mhorvath@freeholdboro.k12.nj.us

FLC, Nurse Kelly Bernazzoli: kbernazzoli@freeholdboro.k12.nj.us

Advanced Practice Nurse Catherine Donohue 908-675-3654, Mon-Fri, 12pm-4pm.

Social/Emotional Hotline: 732-810-3146.

Virtual Instruction/Support Issues This School Year:

Issues with district technology should be sent to: techstaff@freeholdboro.k12.nj.us

This past Monday the Governor extended the closure of schools through the rest of this school year. As a result we will remain on virtual instruction through June 19th, the last day of school.

For those on the free Comcast Internet service, Comcast has indicated that they will extend that service through June 30, 2020.

Other than the 8th graders, we will leave our Chromebook devices and wifi devices with the students through the summer. All will be able to use our summer online enrichment program that will be designed to assist students with grade appropriate summer work. Additionally, we will be positioned to start 2020-2021 virtually, if that becomes necessary.

We will have a special plan for 8th graders. We will first get them in to take a photo in their cap and gown to be used in our virtual graduation ceremony. Later we will organize an exchange where 8th graders will return all district devices and materials, and be given their personal belongings from their lockers, diploma, certificates, sports letters, etc. Mrs. Dougherty will be outlining these plans in more detail.

For all other returning students, when we return to the buildings in the fall, they will be able to collect their belongings, award certificates, etc.. Time will be made on the first day back for students to visit their 2019-2020 class and teacher to settle unfinished business, including collecting their personal belongings, giving back items, make whatever transactions are necessary, and to have closure with their teacher. A special plan will be arranged for this year's FLC 2nd graders who will be at PAE 3rd grade when we reopen.

This year we will not have a Spring Concert or Awards Ceremony. The FIS National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be rescheduled for when we are back in school.

Virtual orientations are being organized for 2nd graders attending PAE next year and for 5th graders attending FIS next year. Work has also started on Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Orientation if we have to do them virtually before school starts in September.

If any returning student must retrieve a particular personal item or medication in the nurse's office prior to their return next school year, then contact the building Principal to coordinate a retrieval.

FIS 8th graders will have their locker contents given to them at the end of year exchange. Current 6th and 7th graders will return to their same lockers in 2020-2021.

Virtual Instruction/Support Issues During Summer 2020:

As of today the Governor has not commented specifically on the status of summer programs. Various statewide committees and task forces have been formed to consider under what terms and conditions the schools can reopen. Currently we operate under an Executive Order closing schools until further notice. Therefore our current assumption is that we will remain on virtual instruction during the summer months.

If virtual, we will run the Special Education Extended Year Program and the 21st Century Program. We would not run the Title I program.

If allowed to return and do in school instruction, we anticipate being able to run all three programs.

We expect to slide the dates of the 21st Century summer program to Monday July 6 - Friday, Aug 7th. This moves the start of the program away for the mandated closure period in June.

We will make all final decisions about summer programs once the Governor addresses this time frame in his official decisions.

Virtual Instruction/Support Issues During 2020-2021:

Looking to the 2020-2021 school year, two key issues become relevant. Again, under what terms and conditions will we be allowed to reopen? Also, once we are reopened, a newly signed law requires us to have the ability to return to virtual instruction with three days notice. These two issues raise some planning challenges:

If we must be capable of switching to virtual learning upon 3-days notice, students will have to have devices in their possession already. We won't have time for a drawn out distribution like we had in March.

From the current experience we have determined that 1st graders would be better served working off a Chromebook, and Kindergarten/Pre-Kindergarten students would be better served working off an iPad, thus minimizing the need for voluminous paper packets and constrained teacher interaction.

To this end, prior to passing the 2020-2021 final budget last Monday, funds were set aside to provide for a 1:1 Chromebook initiative Grades 1-8, and to purchase the necessary iPads for PreK/K students. The Principals will be working closely with parents and students to outline how this new approach will work, both normally and when shifted to virtual instruction.

Detailed plans will be established for those homes without Internet service currently relying on the free Comcast service or one of our wifi devices.

Despite our intentions to meet the requirements of this law through the laying on of additional technology, we also know that the state is facing serious fiscal challenges. We will not know our actual state aid number for sure until the state approves the budget for 2020-2021, which has now been delayed until September 30, 2020. But if we get the amount of state aid already promised, we will be able to implement our plan.

Upcoming Events:

Mon, May 11: Food distribution 9am-12pm, rear of PAC.

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Tue, May 12: Free dinners 5pm-6pm from Fulfill at PAE parking lot

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Wed, May 13: Food distribution 9am-12pm, rear of PAC.

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Thu, May 14: Free dinners 5pm-6pm from Fulfill at PAE parking lot

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Fri, May 15: Food distribution 9am-12pm, rear of PAC.

Fri, May 15: End of Interim Marking Period #4*

*Thank you parents, we now have 96.4% on Genesis Parent Portal.

Remaining Weeks in the 2019-2020 school year:

May 18 - May 22

May 26 - May 29 (May 25th is Memorial Day)

Jun 1 - Jun 5

Jun 8 - Jun 12

Jun 15 - Jun 19 (June 17, 18, 19 are early dismissal days)

Thank you.

Rocco Tomazic
Superintendent

