

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Flyers:

The YMCA is providing full day child care at the Community Center in Freehold Boro. Information on the service is provided [here](#).

Those interested in participating in the Million Meals Challenge, details [here](#).

Homework Help program presented by Freehold Public Library:

Homework Help. Tuesdays & Thursdays (starting September 22), 2:30-3:30 PM (via Zoom). Students in elementary school through 6th grade are invited to hop-on their devices to consult with local high school students for a little help. For security/safety purposes, please register to access this program. Presented by Freehold Public Library. Email kmulholland@freeholdpubliclibrary.org with student's name and grade, and a joining link (good for all sessions) will be sent to you.

Vaccines and Immunizations:

From the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH):

The NJDOH has received inquiries regarding the status of the immunization of pupils in school regulations (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4). The value of immunizations is even more evident during this pandemic: therefore, NJDOH will not waive the vaccine requirements nor will there be any extensions for the upcoming school year. Students will be expected to comply with all vaccine requirements prior to attending virtually or in-person at a New Jersey child care/preschool and school. New Jersey still allows for medical and religious exemptions when applicable.

The potential for the spread of infectious diseases is increased whenever individuals are brought into group settings. New Jersey has minimum vaccine requirements for school attendance. Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommended immunization is encouraged to provide optimal protection from vaccine-preventable diseases. Ensuring that vaccines are up-to-date can help protect schools and communities from vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information please visit the New Jersey Immunization Requirements Frequently Asked Questions document available on the website https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements/ and directly at https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/imm_requirements/vaccine_qa.pdf

Grade-specific information on student vaccines is listed below:

Pre-K:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/imm_requirements/cc_preschool_requirements_parents.pdf

K-12:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/imm_requirements/k12_parents.pdf

Contacts:

Social/Emotional Hotline: 732-810-3146.

District technology issues: techstaff@freeholdboro.k12.nj.us

Restart and Reentry for 2020-2021:

School starts for 2020-2021 next Tuesday. Students will attend school online for 6 hours, 25 minutes, except for the time they are on lunch, or, for elementary, lunch and recess.

We have ensured that all students grades 1-8 have a computer device to work with, and Internet connectivity. Where needed, we have provided the device and the connectivity. Any difficulties in this regard should be directed to the building Principal or the Tech Dept email address: techstaff@freeholdboro.k12.nj.us

This year we wanted to anchor our remote instruction for Pre-K and Kindergarten on the use of iPads. We sent our order for these devices earlier this summer, but they have not arrived in district yet. We know they are in NJ being processed by Apple. Our expected delivery date to our district is currently September 14th. Once they arrive we will distribute them promptly. We know there are 10 Kindergarten students on the iPad waitlist and 36 Pre-K students. In the interim we will send home workbooks and worksheets and cover instruction through the teacher's web page like we did last spring.

We have a good deal of student personal items in school left from last year, as well as various books and materials that have to be sent home for this year. We are looking at the afternoons of the Back-to-School early dismissal days to distribute these materials to families. Look for more information and details on this from the building Principals.

Back-to-School Nights will be done fully remote. More information on that will be coming from Principals on how it will be run by the individual school.

For the FY21 budget (Oct 1, 2020 - Jun 30, 2021), the Governor kept the district at flat funding in state aid, so there are no more proposed cuts. We are waiting for the legislature to process the budget and have it signed by the Governor, ideally before the end of this month.

Breakfast and lunch distribution will be run as it was last spring and this summer, same times and locations. The dates for the next two weeks are listed below.

The district's complete Reentry Plan is available on the district website. In brief, we remain on 100% virtual learning until such time that five issues can be resolved, three of which are health and safety related. They are:

Health and Safety:

- HVAC systems
- Student barriers
- Breakfast-after-the-Bell

Other:

- Personnel shortages
- Attestation

The three health and safety items are the issues that control right now. We need the NJDOE to clarify conflicting guidance, or, alternatively, augment us with additional funds to retrofit systems. We will keep you apprised on progress.

From the point that we believe we are clear to transition from 100% virtual to our hybrid plan, we look to give parents at least three weeks notice to adjust child care arrangements. We will need that time as well to start up the various arrangements that support in-school operations (e.g. crossing guards, YMCA child care support, student busing, student health surveys, etc.)

A note on middle school athletics. The NJSIAA controls high school athletics and the Dept of Education has recommended that middle schools follow their guidance. The NJSIAA has authorized a restart of fall sports on October 1st. For our FIS sports, our Boys/Girls Soccer League has canceled the fall season, and the Field Hockey League and Cross Country League have not made a final decision as of yet. Regardless, even if all the leagues cancel, we believe we have enough student athletes on each of the teams to suit up Blue and White and plan inter squad games and matches with a referee, right here on our campus. So those FIS students interested should continue with their sports physical process and we will have more information as we move forward this month. Having our students participating in athletics will be one more indicator of our purposeful return to normal.

Looking forward, our first transition will be from 100% virtual to our hybrid plan. Then, once we're in hybrid, our next transition will likely be looking to when we can attend full day with many of the restrictions lifted. Such a move would likely come after a working vaccine is available. While we can't predict exactly when that will be, there are many strong indicators that it could come during this current 2020-2021 school year. Our goal and intent is to move towards normalcy as fast as health restrictions and safety concerns will allow.

Next Two Weeks:

Mon, Sep 7: Labor Day, district closed

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Tue, Sep 8: School resumes for all students
Tue, Sep 8: Food distribution rear of PAC, 9am-12pm
Tue, Sep 8: BOE meeting 7pm, virtual

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Thu, Sep 10: Food distribution rear of PAC, 9am-12pm

Mon, Sep 14: Food distribution rear of PAC, 9am-12pm

Mon, Sep 14: Early dismissal

Mon, Sep 14: FLC Back-to-School (virtually) 6pm-8pm

Mon, Sep 14: FIS Back-to-School (virtually) 7pm-9pm

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Tue, Sep 15: Early dismissal

Tue, Sep 15: PAE Back-to-School (virtually) 7pm-9pm

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Wed, Sep 16: Food distribution rear of PAC, 9am-12pm

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Fri, Sep 18: Food distribution rear of PAC, 9am-12pm

Thank you.

Rocco Tomazic
Superintendent

