

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### Flyers

Community resource specialists are available through New Jersey 211 to assist connecting the community with programs and services that assist people who need help with things like food, utilities, affordable housing, rental assistance, mental and physical health, substance use disorders, child care, senior needs, legal assistance, transportation, disability services. NJ 211 provides live assistance 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Their services are free, confidential and multilingual. There are several ways to reach them: By phone (simply dial 2-1-1); via text (send your zip code to 898-211); email ([info@nj211.org](mailto:info@nj211.org)); or [chat online](#).

### News

Our faculty returned today to kick off the 21-22 School Year and the rest of the staff will join them tomorrow. The first day of school for students is Thursday, September 9th (FIS 8:00; PAE 8:35; FLC 9:05). We are all very excited to see all of our students back in school next week. The current situation dictates that we still must take some precautions here in the school such as wearing masks inside the school at the required times (masks are optional outdoors), closely recording seating charts in case contact tracing becomes necessary, and vaccinating or instituting weekly COVID testing of all school personnel by October 18th. There will be hand sanitizer stations available in every classroom, and enhanced cleaning protocols are still in place. The District's HVAC contractor is currently replacing all air filters every two months. We work closely with our local health department and follow all requirements contained in executive orders. While all of these measures together are helpful we know that there will be times during the year when there are positive cases in the school. If there is a positive case in the school our nurses will immediately perform contact tracing as they did last year with all appropriate parties notified. Students who are quarantined as a result of being positive or a close contact will be placed on full day virtual instruction until they are cleared to return to school. Pursuant to NJ Department of Education regulations virtual instruction is only available to students for authorized absences related to COVID-19, all other absences will be handled as they were prior to the pandemic.

The past 18 months have been filled with uncertainty. While it is impossible to say with certainty what the future is, I can tell you I am certain that as we return to school our faculty and staff are committed to providing your child with the best educational experience possible in a safe environment. Guidance coming from state officials continues to change on a frequent basis and we will adapt as it does. While there is an urgency to make up for the past year and a half we will do so deliberately and in a manner that is productive. Over the course of the next year you will probably hear or see buzzwords like learning loss and learning acceleration, while we use this jargon from time to time as needed, to put it plainly it is all just learning. Students learn at different rates under the best of conditions. Our faculty is skilled in differentiation and various instructional methods. They will continue to employ these methods to inform their instructional practice as they always have. We are keenly aware that the pandemic may have caused various social and emotional challenges for some of our students. While our staff will be on the

lookout for this, please reach out to your child's guidance counselor, child study team, or principal if you need access to any resources to support your child.

I look forward to the start of the school year and seeing all of the students next Thursday, September 9th.

Thank you,

Joe Howe

Joseph Howe, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

