

October 23, 2020

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents and Community Members,

The Department of Health’s regional classification system moved Hunterdon County from green (low risk of spread of COVID-19) to yellow (moderate risk of spread). When we are yellow, the Department of Health’s guidelines require students who experience concerning symptoms, and who do not secure a negative COVID-19 test, to remain on remote instruction for 10 days rather than return 24 hours after their symptoms have resolved. You can review this guidance here: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf.

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District has support structures in place for hybrid students who are required to quarantine. Please contact your child’s school principal if your child has been required to quarantine due to exposure or travel out of New Jersey to a state that is on New Jersey’s list of quarantined states. The State of New Jersey advises a travel advisory for people traveling to our state or returning to New Jersey after having visited a location with a significant spread of COVID-19. The travel advisory requires a 14-day quarantine period upon returning to New Jersey. For the most up-to-date listing of those locations, please refer to the State’s [FAQ website](#).

Next week we are thrilled to welcome Cohort A students and continue to support our families that have selected an all remote option for learning. Please complete the daily screening **each morning** prior to your child(ren) reporting to school for in-person learning. If a child arrives at school without a completed form, a parent will be contacted and the child will not be permitted to begin in-person learning. Instructions are noted below:

1. Log into the [Parent Portal](#); an alert will pop up, indicating that the Daily COVID Form is required.
2. Click on the “Daily COVID Form” to begin.
3. Answer all questions honestly and thoroughly.
4. Complete and submit the form for each child reporting to school for in-person learning.

Date	Grades	Cohort A	Cohort B
Week of October 26	K-8	In-Person	Remote Learning
November 2* & 4*	K-8	Remote Learning	In-Person
Week of November 9	K-8	In-Person	Remote Learning
Week of November 16	K-8	Remote Learning	In-Person
November 23-25**	K-8	In-Person	Remote Learning

* School closed for in-person and virtual students on Nov. 3 (Election Day/Staff PD Day) and Nov. 5-6 (NJEA Convention).

** School closed for all students and staff on Nov. 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving Break.

*** Parents who selected all-virtual instruction for their child will continue with all-remote learning. ***

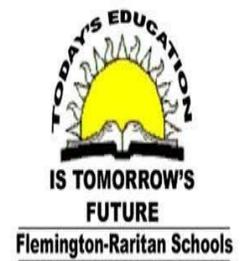
Fire, Security, and Communication Drills

During the month of November, each school will conduct two fire drills, one for students in Cohort A and the other for students in Cohort B. In addition, each school will conduct one security announcement drill as well. The district will also use the SchoolMessenger automated system to conduct a test of the district’s communications system, including email, text, and phone communication.

Governor’s Educator of the Year Recognition

According to the New Jersey Department of Education, the Governor’s Educator of the Year Program highlights the educational innovation, student achievement, the rewards of teaching, and important services outside the classroom environment that lead to student success. The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District was proud to have Mrs.

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Therese Squicciarini, our own J.P. Case Middle School 7th-Grade Special Education Teacher, represent Hunterdon County as the County Educator of the Year for the 2019-2020 school year. The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District seeks to recognize the outstanding contributions of our educators every year through the Governor's Educator of the Year process. Please assist us in recognizing our excellent educators' outstanding contributions for the 2020-2021 school year by contacting school principals to nominate an educator.

Tips for Supporting Children in the Virtual Learning World

The coronavirus has forced educators, families, and students into a new way of learning. Online learning and virtual classrooms using Zoom, Google Meets, Webex, or any other digital platform can be confusing and frustrating for many. Our younger students and our students with special needs find it particularly challenging. Even parents find themselves overwhelmed at times. Juggling work and supporting their children in virtual school can be stressful. Online learning tips on how to support students in a virtual learning world are abundant on the Internet. Here are a few helpful tips provided by www.usatoday.com:

- Reduce distractions
- Provide brain breaks
- Give positive feedback
- Be flexible
- Help kids stay in touch with their friends
- Reach out to your child's teacher.

Your child's teacher and our school guidance counselors, along with family support, are keys to the success of children's academic success and emotional well-being. Students miss their friends and their teachers. Some feel that the environment they are living in is filled with uncertainty. Your child's school team can partner with families to assist to fill that void of uncertainty and provide support. I encourage you to reach out to your child's school team with questions. The faculty and staff in the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District are wonderful sources of support.

In closing, I'd like to share a snippet of my day that provides an example of the dedication of our teachers. Today, I witnessed a beautiful, supportive conversation between one of our fifth-grade teachers and a fifth-grade student. The student came to her teacher because she was upset and sad. Among other supports, the teacher reassured the child, offered comfort and guidance, and suggested taking deep breaths. She finished by offering an "air hug."

I learned from the fifth-grade student that my own term of "virtual hug" is better known as an "air hug." I have adopted that coronavirus term. This heartfelt, warm, and nurturing exchange between teacher and student is a single example of the many that happen every day in our schools. Our teachers and staff are full of support, encouragement, and resilience. They take their jobs very seriously and are working very hard to teach, connect with, and support you and your child.

My best to all of our families and my hope that you are all happy, safe, and healthy.

Wishing you well,

Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools