



# Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parent Newsletter



August, 2018 Edition 1

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## AUGUST GREETINGS

Hello, parents! We are preparing for an exciting start to the school year. The district has been preparing for the 2018-19 school year taking care of all the necessary items that are required for a smooth opening of schools. The summer is a busy place in our schools hiring staff, ordering materials, preparing building schedules, revising curriculum, focusing on best practices in teaching through professional development sessions, attending learning institutes, and cleaning and tidying up for the students return on September 6<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing all students returning for a full day of school on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Students' second full day of school is on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, schools are closed for Rosh Hashanah. I have included a 2018-2019 school calendar on the last page of this newsletter.

I am so proud to serve as your Superintendent of Schools and humbled by my opportunity to work with the Flemington-Raritan community to help every student, every day, at every opportunity. As a leader that values building partnerships for the success of students I welcome family/school partnerships for successful schools and for the success of students. To assist in building partnerships together I have set up a schedule of Superintendent Roundtable Discussions. These sessions are designed to have an open dialogue with parents, staff, students, and community members about issues that are important and on-the-mind of Flemington-Raritan residents. Please mark your calendar; the first session will be held on **Monday, August 20, from 6-7:30 p.m.** in the auditorium of Reading-Fleming Intermediate School. Register your attendance through Eventbrite through this link [here](#) so that we can account for your attendance. We will send out reminders and registrations for each monthly event three weeks prior to the event.

The first month as your Superintendent has been filled with excitement. It has been a pleasure to come to work each day and get to know the many talented, hard-working, and smart teachers and administrators. I look forward to meeting your children in September. It is the children who are at the heart of everything we do.



## SUPERINTENDENT ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

Month	Location	AM/PM	CONFIRMED Date/Time
August	RFIS Auditorium	(pm)	Mon. 8/20 6-7:30 p.m.
September	Copper Hill Band Room	(am)	Wed. 9/12 9:30-11 a.m.
October	Barley Sheaf Library	(pm)	Wed. 10/17 6-7:30 p.m.
November	JP Case B-132	(am)	Mon. 11/19 9:30-11 a.m.
December	FAD Library	(pm)	Mon. 12/10 6-7:30 p.m.
January	Robert Hunter Library	(am)	Tue. 1/15 9:30-11 a.m.
February	Copper Hill band room	(pm)	Tues. 2/12 6-7:30 p.m.
March	RFIS Caf� Annex	(am)	Wed. 3/13 9-10:30 a.m.
April	JP Case Library	(pm)	Tues. 4/16 6-7:30 p.m.
May	Barley Sheaf Library	(am)	Tues. 5/21 9:30-11 a.m.
June	FAD Faculty Room	(am)	Thurs. 6/13 9:30-11 a.m.
June	Robert Hunter Library	(pm)	Tues. 6/11 6-7:30 p.m.

\*To support our families whose native language is not English, translators will be provided at meetings that are scheduled for Robert Hunter Elementary and Francis A. Desmares Elementary Schools.

**HOW PARENTS WIDEN—OR SHRINK—  
ACADEMIC GAPS**  
(Excerpt from Education Week survey)

Often I find in my professional reading many interesting articles that are based on research and surveys. One article this week focused on how parents widen—or shrink—academic achievement gaps. Intriguing statistics about how “hidden inequities” keep education from reaching the goal of leveling the playing field for all students.

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District is rich with parents that are involved in our educational programs. Sports events, Back-to-School nights, theater nights, musicals, PTO events, and other events are always filled with parents that come to see their child’s learning and abilities showcased. As educators in this district we are always proud of our students and eager to show-off their skills and talents. It is our goal to have as many parents participate in these events and ensure that all members of the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District community feel equally included regardless of socio-economic levels, nationality, language preferences, or any other identifiable characteristic. We want all of our community together to celebrate our students’ successes.

The article from the Education Week Research Center showed that middle-class parents often engaged in more social involvement at school—participating in school committees, parent groups, and volunteering in class, for example—experiences that can link them to more opportunities and resources for their children and more influence in schools. Those differences in parent involvement can create hidden disparities that are easy for schools to overlook but hard for poor families to overcome. Most parents support their children’s learning at home, but high-income parents are more likely to volunteer in schools and network to access opportunities for their children, an Education Week survey finds. Contrary to some common stereotypes, parents of all income levels have high expectations for their children, and low-income parents may even dedicate more time than wealthier ones to helping children with homework, according to federal data.

**MEASURING PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

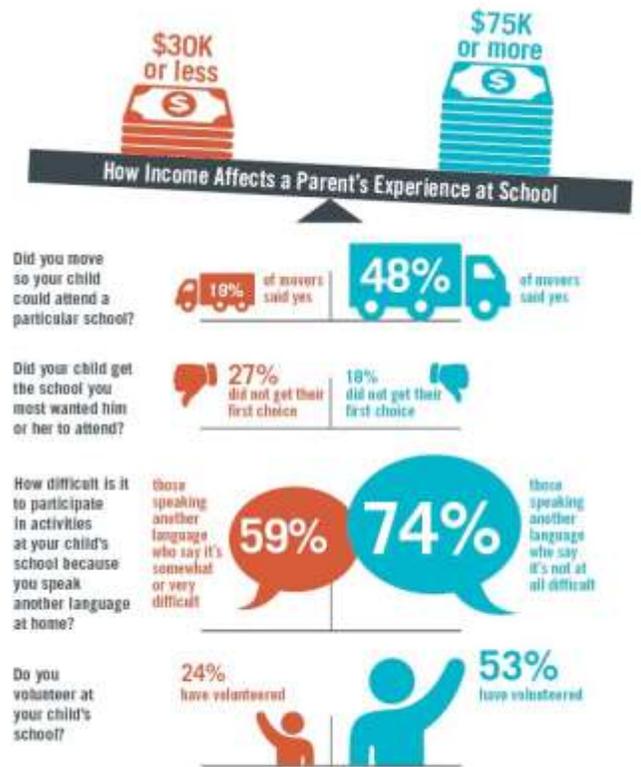
The Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey is one of several in the National Center on Education Statistics’ National Household Education Surveys. NCES surveyed a nationally representative sample of 17,563 parents and guardians, who represented 53.4 million students homeschooled or enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 in 2011–12. Data on parent and family involvement in education from the 2012 survey was released in June 2016.

The Education Week Research Center conducted additional analyses by weighting the National Household Education Survey data to get U.S. population estimates, removing homeschooled students, and testing for statistical significance of the results. The outcomes were verified by the American

Institutes of Research on behalf of NCES and will be added to the official data tables for the NHES study.

To learn more about perspectives on parental engagement in K-12 education, the Education Week Research Center and Education.com administered an online survey to a sample of parents and teachers. Nearly 500 parents and more than 1,000 teachers participated in the survey, which was fielded in February 2017. Although the sample for the survey is not nationally representative, the study captures the views of a wide range of respondents.

Information included in this section of the newsletter was gathered from the research by Coral Flanagan and Michael Osher.



SOURCE: Education Week Research Center analysis of National Household Education Survey, 2017

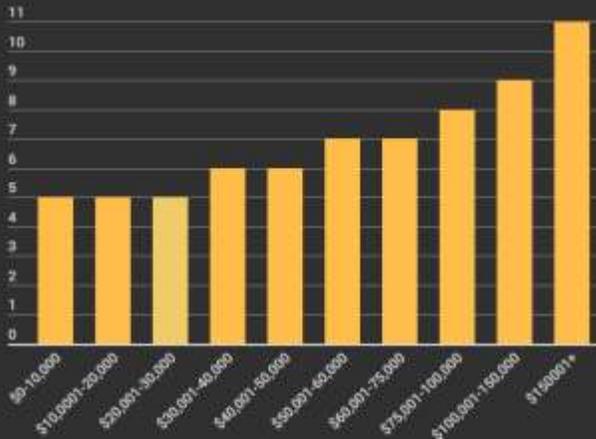
Each school in our district has many ways for parents to be involved in their child’s education. Please reach out to your child’s teacher or the building principal to find out ways in which you might learn about your child’s education or an upcoming event to attend.



# SOCIAL CAPITAL

## Parent Participation in School by Income

Number of times per year a parent attends meetings or participates in activities at child's school



SOURCE: Education Week Research Center analysis of National Household Education Survey, 2017

EDUCATION WEEK



## WELCOME, MR. LOSANNO!

The upcoming September issue of the parent newsletter will feature the new building staff members hired this summer to support Flemington-Raritan Regional School District.

This month I'd like to introduce to families our new Supervisor of Educational Technology, Mr. Ralph Losanno. Mr. Losanno joins the team in Flemington-Raritan from Hillsborough Township Schools. He has a Bachelor's degree in business with a focus in arts administration. Mr. Losanno worked in television for just over a year before changing paths and becoming an educator. While teaching he went on to obtain a Master's degree in education and his principal and supervisors endorsements. He has taught as a classroom teacher in various elementary grades, served as a district's K-12 STEM coach, and for the past three years, worked as a technology coach in various schools in Hillsborough.

Mr. Losanno brings his broad range of experiences to his role as a supervisor. He views technology as a tool through which we can guide our students to make deeper and more differentiated connections with the curriculum.



## BEDTIME MATH FREE APP FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Using the Bedtime Math App for just a few minutes each day (or a few times a week) is a fun way to keep math skills sharp over the summer! Follow the directions below to download the app and enter our school district's special code: NJ

### With a few clicks, it's easy to download!

1. Download the **Bedtime Math app** for iPhone/iPad on the **App Store**, or for Android on **Google Play**.



2. Open the app and click **Community Edition**.



3. Enter your special code: NJ.



4. Select your **school district** and **school name**, and click **Submit**.



## FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2018-2019 STUDENT CALENDAR

September 3	Labor Day	School Closed for Students & Staff
September 4	Staff Development Day – First Day for Staff	School Closed for Students only
September 5	Staff Development Day	School Closed for Students only
September 6	First Day for Students	
September 10	Rosh Hashanah	School Closed for Students & Staff
September 12	Open House – Reading-Fleming Intermediate School	Early Dismissal – Gr. 5-6 only
September 19	Yom Kippur	School Closed for Students & Staff
September 20	Open House – Elementary Schools	Early Dismissal – Gr. K-4 only
September 26	Open House – J.P. Case Middle School	Early Dismissal – Gr. 7-8 only
October 16	Staff Development Day	Early Dismissal for Students
October 19	Interims Available on Parent Portal – J.P. Case/RFIS	
November 6	Election Day/Staff Development Day	School Closed for Students only
November 8-9	NJEA Teacher Conference	School Closed for Students & Staff
November 14	Elementary Marking Period #1 Ends	
November 14, 15 19, 20	Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences <i>11/14, Afternoon; 11/15, Evening; 11/19, Evening; 11/20, Afternoon</i>	Early Dismissal, Gr. K-4 only
November 21	Elementary Report Cards (Gr.3-4) available on the Parent Portal	
November 21	Thanksgiving Recess begins	Early Dismissal
November 22-23	Thanksgiving Recess	School Closed for Students & Staff
November 26	5-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences: <i>RFIS-3:15-5:15 p.m.; JPC – 5:30-8 p.m.</i>	Regular Day – Grades K-8
November 27	5-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences: <i>RFIS- 1:30-4:30 p.m.; JPC-5:30-8 p.m.</i>	Early Dismissal – RFIS & JPC
November 28	5-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences: <i>JPC-1:30-4 p.m.; RFIS-5:30-8 p.m.</i>	Early Dismissal – RFIS & JPC
November 29	5-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences: <i>JPC-2:30-5 p.m.; RFIS-5:30-8 p.m.</i>	Early Dismissal – RFIS & JPC
November 30	5-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences: <i>RFIS- 1:30-4:30 p.m. ; JPC-1:30-4 p.m.</i>	Early Dismissal – RFIS & JPC
December 7	RFIS/JPC Trimester Ends	
December 21	Winter Break Recess begins	Early Dismissal
Dec. 24 – Jan. 1	Winter Recess	School Closed for Students & Staff
January 2	Classes Resume	
January 21	Martin Luther King Day	School Closed for Students & Staff
January 29	Staff Development Day	Early Dismissal for Students
January 30	Interims Available on Parent Portal – J.P. Case/RFIS	
January 30	Elementary Marking Period #2 Ends	
February 6	Elementary Report Cards (K-4) available on the Parent Portal	
February 15	Staff Development Day	School Closed for Students only
February 18	President's Day	School Closed for Students & Staff
February 25	Kindergarten Registration at Robert Hunter School - Snow Date: March 4	
February 26	Kindergarten Registration at Copper Hill School - Snow Date: March 5	
February 27	Kindergarten Registration at Francis A. Desmares School - Snow Date: March 6	
February 28	Kindergarten Registration at Barley Sheaf School - Snow Date: March 7	
March 11	Staff Development Day & Contingency Snow Day #3 – <i>If the District needs to use this day as a 3<sup>rd</sup> make up snow day, March 11 becomes an early dismissal day for students and a half professional development day for staff.</i>	School Closed for Students only
March 18	RFIS/JPC Trimester Ends	
April 8	Elementary Marking Period #3 Ends	
April 15	Elementary Report Cards (Gr. 2-4) available on the Parent Portal	
April 19-26	Spring Recess	School Closed for Students & Staff
April 29	Contingency Snow Day #1	School Closed for Students & Staff
May 8	Interims Available on Parent Portal – J.P. Case/RFIS	
May 24	Contingency Snow Day #2	School Closed for Students & Staff
May 27	Memorial Day	School Closed for Students & Staff
June 20		Early Dismissal
June 21	Last Day of School - Report Cards Go Home/Parent Portal	Early Dismissal

Contingency Snow Days: Three snow days are built into the calendar in the following order: 4/29, 5/24 and 3/11. If more than three days are needed, the year will be extended as follows: 4/26, 4/25, 4/24, 4/23, 4/22 – a determination will be made if these days are regular days or early dismissal days for students and staff.