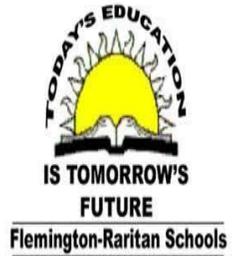


Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Dr. Kari McGann
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50 Court Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1300
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July 25, 2020

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Community,

We continue to be deeply involved in planning for a Return to School in September. A full plan will be presented to our Board of Education at the Monday, July 27, meeting through a webinar platform. The presentation will be posted on our district website the next day. While there are still many decisions to be made, I want to share with you information to assist you in your decision-making. Please bear in mind that our district plan is subject to additional input and approval from the local Department of Health, the Board of Education, and the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE).

Even prior to receiving guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education, our district had already begun working on what a reopening might look like. The local Flemington press highlighted our work in a [featured article about the district task forces meetings in preparation for the reopening of our school buildings in the fall.](#)

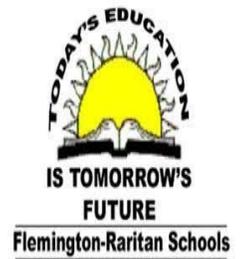
Once the DOE's guidance was released our Restart Task Force Committees began the detailed work of gathering information to ensure a safe return to schools in the fall. The New Jersey Department of Education guidance document specifically calls for our brick and mortar schools to be open in the fall by stating, "...absent a shift in the public health data, school buildings will open in some capacity for in-person instruction and operations in the fall." Therefore, the Restart Task Force Committees envisioned a reopening with a combination of in-person and virtual instruction, also called a hybrid model. Our restart plan includes several sections which represent much of the work from the Task Force Committees.

The district used multiple surveys to gather information from parents, students, and educators about virtual learning and reopening school doors in the fall. The dedication of the district to include community members in decision making was prominent in the district's reopening plans.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to representatives from throughout our community who served on four separate task forces to promote the restart of our schools. In total, there were eighty-seven (87) community members who volunteered to serve. Our task force members represented business leaders, parents, educators, NJEA leadership, Board of Education members, PTO leadership, district and school administrators, the Superintendent of Schools, members of the school safety teams, District Safety Specialists, child study team members, school nurses, buildings and grounds staff, supervisors of curriculum, mental health specialists, and art advocates. The task force committees served in an important role to address critical components of operation within the Flemington Raritan Regional Schools.

I would like to thank the members of the Operations and Governance Task Force, Finance Task Force, Personnel Task Force, and Physical and Mental Health Task Force for their valuable time, expertise,

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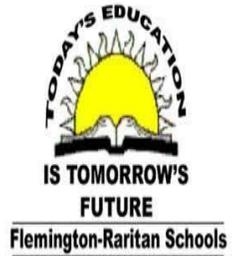
insight, and recommendations. The meetings required a Herculean effort to review and recommend standards for establishing safe and healthy learning environments so our faculty, staff, and students could return to school with confidence. Chairs and members of the task force committees spent many hours together.

Operations and Governance Task Force Members: (Chair: Dr. Kari McGann)	Finance Task Force Members: (Chair: Mrs. Stephanie Voorhees)	Personnel Task Force Members: (Chair: Mr. Daniel Bland)	Physical & Mental Health Task Force Members: (Chair: Dr. Danielle Hamblin)
Jessica Abbott Sabrina Bajohr Bruce Black Kelly Bowers Jeff Cain Lisa Coster Dr. Anthony DeMarco Karen Gabruk Marisa Handren Arione Lawson Laurie Markowski Mark Masessa Michael Melillo Melanie Rosengarden Christina Schlegel Jim Shumate Peter Sibilis Robin Smith Carla Thompson Katie Vaccarino Susan Vala	Valerie Bart Kristen Boyce Timothy Canonico Tiffany Cinquemani Sher DeGenova Crystal Dibetta Mitchelle Drulis Kaila Fasano Sherri Glaab Sue Gouldey Carol Howell Beth Katz Marybeth Madlinger Jeffrey Milheim Dan Shirvanian Anabela Tavares	Andrew Assini Tim Bart Priyanka Bhatia Bob Castellano Christine Casterline Dr. Michelle Cook Mary Jane Custy Danielle Larca Karen Lurie Mindy Pacholick Nydia Peake Betsy Roll Sarah Stangota Kelliann Tenkate Wendy VanDine	Vanessa Ahmed Brielle Ashforth Athena Bagaipo-Penalos Kathleen Barbee Jessica Braynor Rebecca Burns Lori Castronuovo Marie Corfield Ariej Dawood Christine Galloway Liz Gardner Tricia Giordano Dawn Hlavsa-Suk JoAnn Kernan Leigh Ann Koch Jesse Lockett Susan Mitcheltree Rebecca Moeri Sam Nagy Caitlin Persche Scott Vogel Meredith Weil

Our school district will continue to abide by the advice of the Hunterdon County Health Department to determine the safest course of action and decision-making based on the local circumstances. The health and safety of our students, staff, and faculty remain our number one priority.

We will implement physical spacing measures in classrooms, hallways, and other common spaces. Additionally, we will build in time during the day for handwashing, age-appropriate mask ‘breaks’ and snack times, and other measures. We will create six feet of social distancing space whenever possible. Unless a student has a documented medical condition that precludes the use of face coverings, all students and staff are required to wear masks in the buildings and on a bus at all times.

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Soon, we will ask parents to identify whether their child will be attending school, learning entirely remotely, and utilizing a school bus so that school principals can prepare their classrooms and buildings. Here are some additional steps you can take now to prepare your family and your child for a return to school.

1. Purchase a thermometer. Previously it was recommended to develop a policy regarding daily health screenings for all students. Yesterday the CDC released new recommendations on screening students. We are working through the particulars of this and adjusting to changing recommendations. It may involve parents confirming each morning that their child is free from all symptoms of illness - including fever. It may also include the district monitoring temperatures of students and staff before entering school buildings.
2. Purchase or make several well fitted, comfortable, washable cloth face masks. Your child will need a clean face mask daily. Follow the CDC's guidance on face masks.
3. Work on building mask stamina with your children. This is one of the most important steps we can take for everyone's safety. The more you and your child wear their masks, the more comfortable they will be wearing them for extended periods.
4. Continue to be positive and reinforce healthy habits with your family. Our children take their cues on how to handle challenging situations from the adults in their lives.

The most important elements of our plan for you to be aware of at this time include:

During the 2020-2021 academic school year there will be two options for families: 1) a virtual remote learning option and 2) a "Group A" and "Group B" Across Grades Model. All students will be on an early-release schedule each day. This means that schools will operate on a shortened day schedule for in-person instruction. We will provide more information as we move forward.

Option 1: Virtual/Remote Only Learning:

On Monday, July 20, Governor Murphy gave approval for school districts to offer a virtual only option to parents. Virtual only option means that students would not attend school in the actual school building, but receive all instruction virtually. The Flemington-Raritan School District has taken the feedback parents, students, and teachers offered through survey information and will make improvements in preparation for the upcoming school year. Our completely virtual instruction will be taught by Flemington-Raritan Regional School District teachers and will follow the same district curriculum as used for in-person hybrid instruction.

Our virtual learning option will consist of the following:

1. Students will interact virtually via live instruction several times a week with an FRSD teacher. This will include both live, scheduled classes with an instructor at a set time as well as student self-paced learning.
2. Assessments, projects, content, and resources will all be a part of the remote learning plan and will follow the district curriculum and New Jersey Student Learning Standards.
3. In addition to live lessons, teachers will post assignments and will provide feedback to students.
4. Daily attendance will be taken and monitored.

5. Virtual learning students will have the same number of learning hours as students in a hybrid "Group A" and "Group B" Across Grades Model.
6. Students in a virtual learning model will receive feedback in the form of evaluation of learning, just as students in a hybrid learning model.

Option 2: Hybrid with a "Group A" and "Group B" Across Grades Model:

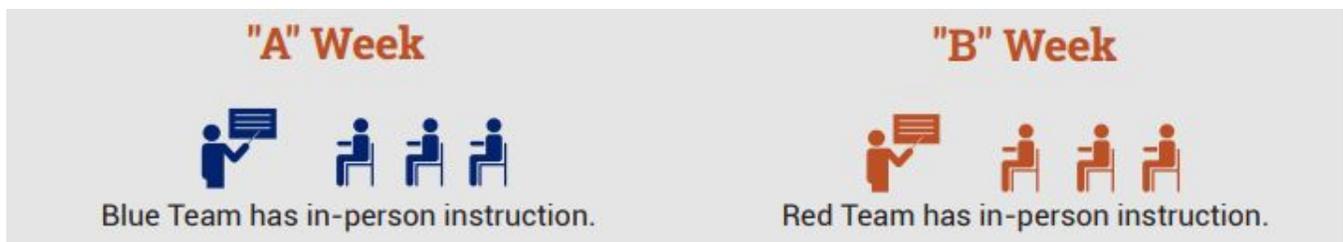
In a hybrid model with a "Group A" and "Group B" Across Grades Model, students will receive a combination of in-person instruction and remote virtual instruction. A group of students, or cohort of students, will be scheduled together in a "Group A" or "Group B." The district will make every effort to schedule families from the same household, living at the same address, to attend school on the same scheduled days in either "Group A" or "Group B."

Under the current requirements of the New Jersey Department of Education for social distancing, all students will not be present in our school buildings on the same days. "Group A" and "Group B" will attend school in alternating, separate weeks. The New Jersey Department of Education established parameters as one of the suggested schedules for schools. Once all our families have registered their preference for option one (1) or option two (2), we can establish a schedule based on the number of how many students register and request an in-person "Group A" and "Group B" Across Grades Model.

Students attending the "Group A" and "Group B" Across Grades Model will attend school alternating between in-person and virtual instruction week by week. "Group A" will attend in person one week while the other group, "Group B," participates virtually that week. The following week the group that was attending in person will participate virtually, and the group that was participating virtually will attend in person.

An example of how this looks:

A/B Weeks Across Grades



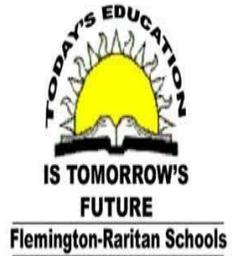
Red Team: (Group A)



Blue Team: (Group B)

Students are divided into two (2) groups with one group attending on "A" Week and the other group attending on "B" Week. All students are on an early release schedule.

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Another way to look at the hybrid blended learning model is by weeks. "Group A" and "Group B" follow the same pattern alternating from week to week.

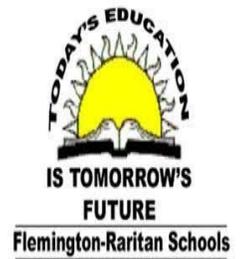
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Group A in school				
	Group B at home completing virtual instruction				
Week 2	Group B in school				
	Group A at home completing virtual instruction				

Special Note about Genesis and Board Presentation

Genesis: The Central Office is working on our *Genesis* platform to configure the system to allow parents to select option one (1) or option two (2) for students’ schedules for the fall. More information will arrive shortly with directions on how to select an option and share if your child will need transportation. Very shortly, parents will be able to log into their child's *Genesis* account and provide answers to questions and make selections so we may begin to assign students into cohorts for attendance in September. I recognize this is a dynamic situation with ever-changing information. Please know that we will do our best to accommodate you should you wish to change from live instruction to fully remote instruction – or from fully remote to live instruction, with advance notice of at least two weeks.

Presentation: A full plan will be presented to our Board of Education at the Monday, July 27, meeting through a webinar platform. The presentation will be posted the following day on our district website. A webinar platform allows greater participation than our previous Zoom platform. Our upgraded Webinar platform will allow for Board of Education members to be panelists and our virtual attendees to participate using the chat or hand-raising option to address the Board during the Citizens Address the Board portion of the board meeting. Webinars allow view-only attendees. Our technology support will be able to unmute the attendees to address the board. Attendees in webinars, cannot rename themselves.

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Even though many decisions are being made about the 2020-2021 school year, there are several weeks of summer vacation remaining. Please enjoy this time with your family and continue to be safe. The school principals and I, along with our administrative team, will communicate additional information about school schedules, student supplies, and more in the coming weeks. You will hear from me next week with additional information. In the meantime, have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kari McGann". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kari McGann, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools