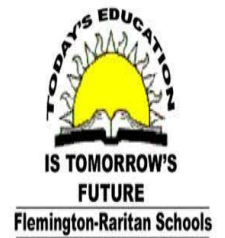


Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Dr. Kari McGann
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December 21, 2021

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

Our school district is holding a regular day tomorrow, December 22. The District does not anticipate a need to dismiss early. The District will hold a scheduled Early Dismissal Day on December 23 to begin Winter Break. This was a previously scheduled early dismissal and is not a result of any contact tracing or COVID-19 related activity.

Students, faculty, and staff are scheduled to return on January 3, 2022. The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District remains committed to our in-person teaching and learning. Everyone is working hard to maintain in-person instruction in the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District. According to new data from [federal surveys](#) taken from September through December and released last week, key findings from educational data report that nearly 100% of public school students were offered in-person learning. Students need high-quality education and deserve in-person learning in a safe environment.

The staff and faculty at Flemington-Raritan Regional School district continue to focus on offering in-person learning to students. We have problem-solved together-- covering classes and front offices due to substitute shortages; pitching in to make sure State-required contact-tracing is completed as safely, efficiently and expeditiously as possible; advocating for students to be able to “test-to-stay” in school; pressing for movement on legislation to allow retired teachers to return to fill teacher vacancies on an emergency basis; writing to Governor Murphy, Commissioner Persichilli, and Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan to request information to maintain in-person instruction; and the continued operation of elementary and secondary schools. Specifically, I have requested data on vaccination rates, hospital utilization, case trends and rates in one location for district-based decisions. A collection of data such as this will assist Superintendents to continue to make healthy decisions for our communities.

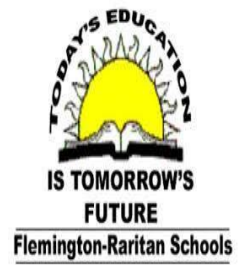
At this time, I do not plan for our District to be virtual following Winter Break in January. Last year after the winter break when only health care workers had received vaccinations, we did not close our school doors for in-person instruction. We remained open for in-person instruction after the winter holidays. We maintained healthy programs and I believe we can do it again. However, out of an abundance of caution parents should be prepared to pivot to all-remote learning if the district cannot continue in-person instruction per New Jersey DOH and/or NJDOH COVID-19 guidance.

I asked building principals to be sure that students take their school-issued laptops home for the winter break and any curriculum materials that teachers believe students may need in the event of virtual instruction after winter break...just in case.

When I have guidance from the Hunterdon County Health Department to advise me to close a building and participate in virtual instruction we take the recommendation very seriously and have followed their previous guidance. Fortunately, we have not had that advice for full building closure since last year. We have had to close a few classrooms at Barley Sheaf School and at Copper Hill School. We are fortunate that school transmission is very limited to specific classrooms.

Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli states, “Vaccination continues to provide the best protection against COVID-19, preventing transmission in school, and eliminating the need to quarantine following an exposure. I recommend that all parents talk to their child’s health care provider about the COVID-19 vaccine and urge school

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personnel to seek vaccination and boosters as soon as possible.” Currently vaccinations are available for children five years old and up. To find a vaccination clinic visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/>.

On behalf of the Board of Education and as your Superintendent, we send our heartfelt wishes for a wonderful holiday season to all our families and our students. May your celebrations be safe, peaceful, and joyous. Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and hope-filled new year. We look forward to seeing our students back on January 3, 2022.

Always working for what is best for kids,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kari McGann".

Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools