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January 3, 2022

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

For tomorrow, January 4, 2022, the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District will return to a full day of <u>in-person learning</u> in all schools. Solutions for transportation were solved in collaboration with our Transportation Department. If we receive notice of driver shortages due to COVID-19, please know that buses may be impacted. Please anticipate and plan for possible bus delays.

The District is assessing our cases and symptomatic close contacts that may affect our ability to continue to offer in-person learning. Temporary virtual instruction decisions may need to be considered within classrooms, grade levels, or buildings until such time that we are able to fully staff the District safely. As the situation warrants, it is possible that some schools may open for in-person instruction while other schools remain virtual. We encourage our parents in the district who are approved substitutes to log into our Frontline Substitute System to help us fill uncovered positions.

Some parents continue to ask about the ability to offer remote learning as an instructional model. Virtual learning was eliminated by Governor Murphy at the conclusion of last school year. The virtual school option ended because Executive Order 175 was rescinded which allowed parents to choose an all-remote option. Due to the Governor's public health emergency ending, virtual school is not an option for students unless they are quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure. Virtual instruction can only be used as a result of a COVID quarantine or COVID closure. Please contact your child's school if your child has been exposed to COVID-19 or has symptoms.

Parents, if you have given fever-reducing medication or if your child is symptomatic with COVID-19 symptoms, do not send your child to school. If it is confirmed that a symptomatic child is present in school, the district may need to send multiple students and the teacher(s) home to quarantine. When children come to school that are sick or exposed at home it creates contact tracing requirements which may hinder our ability to continue to offer in-person learning.

COVID-19 has the following symptoms: fever (temperature of 100.4 or greater) or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, a new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. If children experience any of these symptoms, they must stay home from school. If you have any questions about symptoms or any other concerns for you or your child, please consult your physician or one of our school nurses.

Parents are encouraged to have childcare arrangements in place should a school or the District need to move to temporary virtual instruction. Due to the fluidity of the current public health crisis, this determination may need to be made very quickly. Additional information will be communicated as quickly as possible should a change in direction be needed.

Lastly, winter is here. As wintry weather is predicted later this week, please be reminded that we have three built in snow days for this calendar year. The district may not switch from a snow day to a virtual instruction day until <u>after</u>

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the third day of consecutive school closings. According to the State of New Jersey Department of Education Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs, a virtual instruction day will be implemented during a district closure lasting more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared a public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure. Parents should be prepared for a traditional snow day if the weather necessitates a school closing.

The safety of our students, staff, and faculty remains our highest priority.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kari McGann Superintendent of Schools