



Franklin Township Public Schools

1755 Amwell Road, Somerset, New Jersey 08873
(732) 873-2400

Dear Parent of a Franklin Township Student:

As you are aware, we will be beginning the 2020-2021 school year under a district wide full remote program. Our Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools provides for a hybrid program, which we hope to implement later in the fall, where students learn in school and remotely at home. Our Plan also includes a fully remote option which parents/guardians can choose which will allow the child to continue to learn in a remote setting. Regardless of which option is in place, learning remotely via a technological device will play a role in your child's education this coming school year.

The Franklin Township School District will continue to work to provide educational services in the most effective way possible by facilitating distance learning via online portals such as Google classroom and through the use of remote technology such as District-owned laptops, tablets, and other electronic means of communication. The purposes of this communication is to: (1) remind students and parents of some of the ongoing parameters and obligations involving the use of District-owned technology, and (2) request written consent from families, in a response to this communication, to permit the District to utilize the remote camera feature of laptops and tablets that have been issued to students during video-conferencing when determined by instructional staff to be appropriate as part of the school day, a lesson, or instructional activity

First, parents and students are reminded that [Board Policy No. 5516](#) ("Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices") prohibits audio or video recording of any student or staff member without the prior consent of the student, the parent, *and* the school staff member. At this time, staff members will not be audio or video recording students during the provision of remote instruction. Similarly, students and parents are not permitted to audio or video record sessions of instruction, or to make audio/video recordings of staff or other students. Teachers may however record themselves while teaching a lesson. Should the district permit teachers to record a lesson which includes class discussion, further parental consent will be sought. Unless parents are notified otherwise, District staff will access the remote audio and video conferencing features of District-owned technology in order to provide instruction, interact, and communicate with students only on the days and times communicated to parents as being designated for such activities. In addition, all students are expected to adhere to the provisions of [Board Policy No. 7523](#) ("School District Provided Technology Devices to Students") and [Board Policy No. 2361](#) ("Acceptable Use of Computer Networks/Computers and Resources") regarding their use of district technology. Copies of all three of the above policies are available online, via the District's website or via mail upon request.

During this time, video-conferencing technology may be utilized to allow greater access to remote learning. However, the District understands that some parents may be uncomfortable with permitting video access to their child on-screen from the home environment. Therefore, the second purpose of this e-mail is to request your parental consent to allow use of the remote camera feature of your child's District-owned laptop or tablet or the home device he/she uses during times when instructional activities are in session.

The remote camera feature will not be activated or use of home camera will not be allowed for any student whose parent or legal guardian has not replied with consent per the above. Students whose parents have declined to provide consent, or who do not respond with a reply, will still be able to access audio and video of the instructor on the same basis as all other students, but the instructor and other students will not have video access to that student as the camera feature of that student's laptop will remain inactive during the learning session. For those families who reply with consent, you are reminded to set up laptops and tablets in such a manner and location such that students do not inadvertently allow visual or audio access to items or areas of the home that families may wish to keep private. All families are reminded to set up laptops and other remote technologies away from noise or distractions in the home environment to provide optimal conditions for distance learning.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation as we work together as a community to keep instructional services operating efficiently during this public health emergency.



Franklin Township Public Schools

1755 Amwell Road, Somerset, New Jersey 08873
(732) 873-2400

In the Genesis Parent Portal Access Account for your child, please indicate yes or no to the activation of the remote camera feature on your child's District-owned laptop or tablet or the home device he/she uses during times when instructional activities are in session in order to permit video-conferencing in which your child may appear to the instructor or class on-screen.