

## Updated Frequently Asked Questions May 20, 2020

### Technology:

- **The device that my child received from the district is not working, how can I have it fixed/replaced?** *Contact your child's Principal via email or leave a message on the main school phone number. We have set up a drop off/pick up system for district owned technology that needs to be fixed during remote learning. new*
- **We do not have enough devices for the number of students in our home, can we borrow another Chromebook?** *Principals have been reaching out to their families to see if additional devices are needed. We expect to be able to supply one Chromebook for every two students in a family, up to three Chromebooks in total. new*
- **I have enough devices, but do not have internet access, can you help?** *Please reach out to your building Principal as we have been able to help families access the internet. new*
- **Why are some videos blocked on my child's Chromebook?** *The district owned Chromebooks utilize a filter to monitor and block inappropriate content. This filter was set up to block all videos from a particular source, i.e., YouTube. Our instructional technology/technology departments have developed a process for teachers to request that a particular YouTube video or channel be allowed to bypass the filter for students using district technology. new*
- **Can the teachers all use the same platform for their work?** *We have asked our teachers to try and streamline the applications that they are using. Many utilize Google Classroom. Assignment can still be found on our website as part of our learning modules. new*

### Remote Learning Lessons:

- **Why can't teachers and students meet during regular times that mimic their school schedule?** *Our district is unable to conduct synchronous learning exclusively at this time. Synchronous learning, where teacher and students are working together on a lesson at the same time, may be feasible and in many cases preferred, by some families. But due to the varying circumstances of our student families during this time, it is not possible to require this type of learning district wide. There may be families who are experiencing illness or who work varying shifts as essential workers; others may have many students living in the household with limited technological resources. With that being said, we have been able to provide additional technology to our families increasing the ability for our teachers to meet with students one to one or in groups as their schedules permit. new*
- **My child would like to participate in group with his teacher and fellow students via video, how can I consent.** *In order for your child to participate in a video conference with his teacher/classmates with the camera of the device activated, you must fill out a consent form. This is available through the [Genesis Parent Portal](#).*

- **When will teachers be available to assist students?** *Teacher responsibilities are delineated in the Plan which is posted online. Students and/or parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers with questions via email or by leaving a phone message for the teacher at your child's school. As we move forward in our use of Remote Learning Days, teachers will be reaching out to check in with students and families to monitor assignment progress as well.*
- **How can I see that my child's work has been received?** *Parents of students at the secondary level can see grades for assignments completed via their child's gradebook in Genesis. At the elementary level, teachers are reaching out to provide feedback to students. new*
- **Can there be down time or "fun" days built into the remote learning days?** *Student families have expressed an interest in building field days or other fun experiences into our remote learning days. While we were unable to provide those specific days in Phase IV of our remote learning days, they are being considered for Phase V, which will begin on June 3, 2020. new*
- **Why are so few assignments required to be submitted during Phases I & II?** *Phase I and II assignments are to be assessed for attendance credit only. This was the intent from the beginning of our Remote Learning Plan and is a practice consistent with other districts in Somerset County. All of the assignments in Phases I & II were originally intended to be handed in when we returned to school for regular sessions. However, now that the stay-at-home order has been extended and multiple remote learning phases are likely, collecting and reviewing all of those assignments at a much later date would have been unwieldy.*

*Instead, we have designed a system to fairly assess whether or not a child was to earn attendance credit for the first two phases. We are now asking our students/parents to [submit exemplar samples](#) of the work completed during Phase I and Phase II in order to receive attendance credit. Also, teachers have been instructed to provide informal feedback on daily submissions during Phase II. This work will not be averaged into the final grade just yet. During Phase III, we will begin a more formal process of assessing work and those details will be released shortly.*

### **Returning/Picking Up Items:**

- **When can I pick up the contents of my child's locker?** *The principals of our high school and middle school campuses are coordinating dates for students to pick up the contents of their lockers. The exact days and procedures will be shared with student families shortly but will occur mostly between late May and mid-June. new*
- **My child still has his musical instrument and other school owned materials, do I need to return them to school?** *Dates in June will be shared by our principals with students who have musical instruments. Arrangements in June for the return of district owned items by our graduating seniors, as well as students in the 8th and 5th grades will be forthcoming as well. new*

## End of the Year and Planning for Next Year:

- **What will graduation look like this year?** *Our high school graduation will be virtual with an in-person component that has been detailed by the Principal in a letter posted on the FHS website. The 8th grade promotion will be virtual this year although the middle school principals are considering an in-person component as well. Details concerning the 8th grade promotion ceremony should be available shortly. new*
- **How are students that are referred to honors by their teachers being handled?** *Students will be referred to honors courses based upon their work prior to the Remote Learning Plan. new*
- **What can we do to help students who won't have the ability to visit the middle school or high school before their transition?** *Our building principals are discussing a mentoring plan to ease students' transition to a new school. We also hope to be able to provide an opportunity for our students to visit their new buildings, in person or virtually, before school begins if state guidelines permit. new*
- **Will preschool orientation take place this year?** *The preschool orientations, typically held at the end of the year at the individual schools, will not be held this year due to gathering restrictions. However, there will be a presentation available by the end of the year to provide information to parents. new*
- **What will happen to the Title I funding for this year?** *Title I funding is still being spent by our schools. This money may also be spent for summer programs and, as in other years, if there is a surplus, it may be carried over to next year. new*

## Meals

- **How/Why was the meal distribution plan changed?** *The meal distribution plan was further revised in response to directives from the State and to further minimize the need for families to travel to a central location daily and stand in a large group. Therefore, meals will be distributed, in bulk packages, once per week on Mondays at central locations (FMS@HSC; EAS; HIL and PGM) during the hours of 9:30 am-11:30 am. Additionally, meals will be distributed at bus stops located throughout Town on Mondays from 9:15 am – 10:30 am. Routes have been established for several weeks so the buses should arrive within 15 minutes of their typical time. If a parent can't be available during the drop off times to pick up meals, another family member can pick up the grab and go breakfast and lunches.*
- **How and when will a refund of the money that remains on my child's meal account be issued?** *Families who have a balance on their child's meal account should contact the [Food Services Department](#) to request a refund. New*

## Registration/CARE:

- **What is the process for the re-registration of 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students?** *Given the "Stay at Home" order from Governor Murphy, the district will not require re-registration of our current 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at this time. This process will occur at a later date and will not affect your child's placement for the 2020-2021 school year. new*

- **When will I find out which Middle School campus my child will attend?** *Placement letters are expected to be sent out before Memorial Day weekend. **new***
- **My neighbor wants to register her child for kindergarten next year, how can she do this?** *Registration for the 2020-2021 school year, as well as the transfer of students for this year, are being handled remotely by the Student Registration Office. Please visit their [webpage](#) for more information including the completion of the required forms on-line. **new***
- **Will there be credits given to parents who paid for CARE?** *Once the district began operating under the Remote Learning Plan, no payments were accepted for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Those families who had paid for the full year will be contacted with refund information.*

## **Communications from the District**

- **Why are the district phone blasts so long?** *In order to make sure that our messages are getting through to the greatest number of families, we utilize phone blasts to the contacts listed in Genesis. Since our families have various levels of access to the internet, telephone communication reaches the greatest amount of our stakeholders. More details are often posted on our website as well. Families can also sign up on our website for “e-alerts” which are sent when the website main page is updated with important information.*
- **How can I provide feedback, ask specific questions?** *A specific question about your child or student work should be directed to your child’s teacher or Principal. If you have a general question, feel free to contact Mary Clark, Coordinator of Policies, Regulations and Communications at [mclark@franklinboe.org](mailto:mclark@franklinboe.org). These questions become part of this document.*

*We have conducted surveys for feedback following the start of Phases II, III & IV and have utilized those comments to frame and revise subsequent Phases. Thank you for your input.*