

# FSSD RETURN TO LEARN 2020

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR ALL

## Back to School Information

The Franklin Special School District will begin school under the Level 2 (Moderate Illness Spread) plan with buildings at a reduced capacity. School will begin on **Monday, August 10**, with the following students physically attending school in person:

- **Pre-Kindergarten (phase in schedule)**
- **Kindergarten (phase-in schedule)**
- **First Grade**
- **Second Grade**
- **Students who need to come to school to receive Individual Education services and/or interventions (to be communicated individually to families)**
- **Students who receive Direct Services as active English Learners**



### **Virtual Learners**

Virtual Learners (K-8 and Special Education Pre-K) will not be affected by the change to Level 2 because of their choice to participate in the FSSD Virtual Learning Program, a fully accredited alternative to in-person attendance. Pupil-teacher ratios will be the same as In-Person Learning classes and courses will mirror the content/courses being taught at the school sites. The deadline to enroll in the Virtual Learning Program has been extended to Sunday, July 26. If you have already submitted your child's enrollment in the Virtual Learning Program and you wish to change that enrollment status, please contact your child's principal.



### **Remote Learners**

All other students who will participate in the In-Person Learning option will begin the school year learning remotely. Remote Learning is when a student, class, school, or the district must transition to an off-campus environment, such as their home, while learning continues using primarily online resources until school reopens or the student has been cleared to return. School will begin for remote learners on Monday, August 10. The following students are considered Remote Learners:

- **Third Grade – Eighth Grade** (excluding students indicated above)



### **Students in Grades Pre-Kindergarten Through Second Grade**

While it's logical to expect intermediate and middle school students to be able to work more independently and from a distance, elementary students—especially pre-K to second grade—are at the greatest disadvantage in the remote learning setting. A student acquires the majority of foundational reading skills required for all future learning during these early grades. Skills such as phonemic awareness and phonics are best taught face to face where students can learn using multisensory strategies.

- **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten:** Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) students can only attend In-Person Learning. There are no Virtual or Remote Learning options offered at this grade level. Pre-Kindergarten students will follow a phase-in schedule that will be communicated by your school.
- **Kindergarten:** Kindergarten students will follow a phase-in schedule that will be communicated by your school.
- **First and Second Grades: School will begin on Monday, August 10,** for all first- and second-grade students.



### **Bus and Lunch Services**

Transportation will be available for all In-Person Learners. To reduce exposure and close contact, we encourage those who can drive their children to and from school to do so. Students riding the bus will be assigned seats and must wear a mask for the duration of the route. Lunch service will be offered to all In-Person Learners. Free and reduced meal applications are now available in Skyward Family Access.



### **MAC**

MAC will be available only for students who are participating in the In-Person and Remote Learning options.

- **In-Person Learners:** MAC will be open before school at 7:00 AM until school starts and after school until 5:00 PM at the following locations:
  - Liberty Elementary
  - Moore Elementary
  - Franklin Elementary
  - Johnson Elementary
- MAC is open **after school only** until 5:00 PM for In-Person Learning students at Poplar Grove Elementary, Poplar Grove Middle, Freedom Intermediate, and Freedom Middle (at the Poplar Grove site).
- **Remote Learners:** MAC will be open at the Holiday Site (1406 Cannon St.) from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM for Remote Learners in grades 3-8. Remote Learning support will be provided. Information and registration forms are available online at [www.fssd.org](http://www.fssd.org).
- **WeeMAC:** Location and hours remain the same for WeeMAC (employee childcare) from 6:45 AM to 5:00 PM.



### **Device Distribution for Remote and Virtual Learning**

All FSSD students will be assigned a device to use at home. Students in grades K-2 will receive a Chrome Tablet and students in grades 3-8 will receive a Chromebook. Device distribution will occur August 5-7 and that schedule will be communicated to you by your school. In-Person Learners will receive their devices and instructions on when to take them home during the first week of school.



### **Review of Community Spread Metrics**

As indicated in our Return to Learn 2020 plan, the district will continually monitor various metrics and consult with local public health agencies to determine a date of full return to school. Certain factors, such as community spread of illness, illness by school zone and zip code, clustering data, and absenteeism of students and staff, have been identified as key metrics that serve as “trigger points” for a systematic review. This review helps district leaders determine which instructional scenario will

be used. Currently, the metrics place the community in a Level 2 (Moderate Spread) scenario. A significant increase or decrease in illness spread could prompt further discussion regarding a change in scenarios. However, Level 2 is where we are today. As we move through the school year, FSSD will consult with public health officials prior to finalizing decisions to open or close a school or the district.



### **District Communication**

The District is maintaining a webpage dedicated to our Return to Learn 2020 plan, Back to School and Special Education FAQs, Community Resources, and our response to COVID. You can access it at [www.fssd.org/covid19](http://www.fssd.org/covid19).



### **School Communication**

Now that a Back to School plan has been determined, parents can expect to begin hearing from your child's school/teacher. The school will communicate more details regarding your child's specific schedule, attendance expectations, device pickup, opportunities for parent training on remote learning, as well as the typical back to school information.



### **Our Pledge**

While planning and decision-making for this school year is certainly challenging for parents, we want you to know that we are looking forward to beginning school. Whatever challenges are presented, we will face them together and we will support every student in his/her various learning environments. This fall will be a very different learning experience for your child than what occurred during the spring extended closure. Education leaders, teachers, parents and the community were taken by surprise and information and guidance was unavailable for the most part, so the schools and teachers did all they could to help parents provide optional ungraded learning review opportunities for children.

This year, school districts have had the advantage of time to research, consult with health officials, plan for various scenarios, and properly hire and train teachers to be much more proficient in remote and virtual learning. We are ready to enthusiastically deliver the required daily instruction and support for virtual and remote learners, as well as provide a full and robust learning environment for students who attend school in person.

Most importantly, there is one enduring promise that the uncertainty of this pandemic will never change: the Franklin Special School District teachers, support staff, school leaders and district administrators will spend every moment we have with your children – virtually, remotely or in person – ensuring and reminding them that they are loved, safe, engaged and prepared for whatever comes next. It is why we chose this profession, and it is what we do best. We CONTINUE to be #FSSDstrong.

– David L. Snowden, Ph.D.  
Director of Schools

