



September 26, 2020

Greetings Freeport Parents/Guardians,

This week again brought beautiful fall weather. Next week doesn't look nearly as warm, so please make sure your students have a jacket or sweatshirt ready for the cooler temps coming our way.

### **What is the Difference Between a Hard and Soft Lockdown?**

From time to time we receive a call from the police department asking us to lockdown due to a community situation. This week on Tuesday, some of our District was briefly placed on lockdown by the Police Department. Here is a brief review of how we manage lockdown situations during the school day.

*Soft Lockdown:* In a soft lockdown, movement to and from the building is halted, but normal instruction continues in the building. This means that we call PE and Recess back into the building from outside and pause all bus traffic until the lockdown can be lifted and we can return to normal operations.

*Hard Lockdown:* In a hard lockdown, the threat is considered dangerous enough that everyone should immediately take shelter and wait for further instruction. In classrooms, this means locking doors, shutting off lights and moving together to a place of safety in the room. If we need a hard lockdown this year, we will not be able to honor social distancing expectations with our students, because the emergency will force us together. If teachers and students can get away from the danger, they can flee the building together.

In all soft or hard lockdown situations, the building or the District (if multiple schools are involved) calls guardians so that they are aware of the situation currently on campus. In some instances the lockdown period is so brief that our call may indicate that there was a brief lockdown and that it has been lifted.

### **Safety Drills During COVID**

Our schools are modifying their typical drill practice (tornado, fire, school bus evacuation, etc.) to allow for social distancing during each drill this year. For example, FHS completed fire drills over two days with both A and B cohort students by dismissing each floor one every 30 seconds over the PA system and then tested the alarm as the last group was exiting the building. Every building is creating innovative ways to continue to meet our drill expectations without compromising staff or student safety.

### **District or School Closure Communication**

We would like to reiterate that communication regarding district or school closure will come directly from the office of the superintendent. Communication will be delivered through email, phone call, district website and our social media platforms. Yesterday, we received inquiries from several families whether our district is going full remote due to Covid 19 cases. This was brought about by a posting on social media and known fact that there has been an increase in positive cases in Stephenson County from 4.1% to 7.1%. (Please review our metrics for district or building closure that was shared in last week's family and staff communication).

## Heads Up Dates:

- Wednesday, October 7 - Full Day Teacher Institute Day -- NO SCHOOL
- Monday, October 12 - Columbus Day -- NO SCHOOL
- Friday, October 30 - End of First Quarter Grade Reporting Period

## Camera Range

At home, please prepare a spot for your student to join a classroom zoom call against a wall. The camera angle is surprisingly large and we don't want to inadvertently show any scenes from home that you wouldn't want shared with your student's whole class and teacher. Placing the chromebook aimed at a wall directly behind the student ensures less background in the camera view.

## Five Week Check and Adjust

Next week we will hit our five week point. At this time we will be looking at how we can continue to improve teaching and learning as we work through this school year together. It will also be a good time to evaluate whether our safety protocols that have been put in place since school reopened have worked and what, if any, adjustments need to be made. The report will be shared with the school board in the October 6 board meeting.

## COVID Contact Tracing

The Stephenson County Health Department takes the lead for all contact tracing, not the schools. Schools are partners in providing information. Please know that if we need to inform parents of a concern, your phone number and contact information will be provided to the Health Department and you will receive a call.

## Grab and Go Drop Off Meals—Remote Only

Our District has gone the extra step of providing meal drop off through our transportation department on Saturdays as well as pick up at FHS. However, if a family misses two meal drop offs and fails to come pick up their missed meals from us, we will stop delivery to the residence. Families can sign up again as needed. Please understand that these guidelines are put into place to avoid wasting meals.

### Contactless Online Bill Payment

To pay fees online go to [fsd145.org](http://fsd145.org)→ Parent Tab→ Electronic Fee Payment  
Standard Fees by Grade Band: PK-4 \$50, 5-8 \$75, 9-12 \$100

### Fee Waiver Deadline Extended to October 5th

If you believe you would qualify for a fee waiver for the 2020-21 school year, please do apply. Failure to apply means you will be charged all school fees list above for your students. **Guardians have only a few days to apply.** Calls will be going out from our Enrollment Center to remind families who have not paid their fees yet to either pay or apply for a waiver.

### Fee Waiver Application Directions

Fee waivers can be downloaded from the Enrollment and Transportation web page under Enrollment Documents or can be picked up from the Enrollment Office. Proof of income must accompany the waiver. If you have questions please contact the Enrollment Center at 815-232-0580 or [enrollment@fsd145.org](mailto:enrollment@fsd145.org).

### **Tech Support**

Please reach out to the FSD145 Tech Team at 815-232-0569 if the issue is related to general login, passwords, or non-functional technology.

### **Common Tech Quick Fixes**

Please visit [this LINK](#) to review videos and written instructions for fixing common technical issues from home.

### **Schoology for Guardians**

Access to Schoology for parents was emailed. If you missed the email, you can create an account on your own using the email address you registered your student with. For parents with existing accounts, following the forgot password process described on our website should reset the parent's Schoology password.

<https://www.fsd145.org/Page/2116>

### **Sponsored Internet Opportunity**

Freeport School District has partnered with [Comcast to provide Sponsored Internet to families in need](#). Qualifying families can receive a promo code from FSD145 Technology Department that allows them to sign up for Comcast Internet Essentials and have Freeport School District pay for their service. Contact information is provided on the last page.

### **Feedback & Questions**

If you have missed our weekly communications to families, you can read them here. [Weekly Community Communications](#)

- Email - You may submit questions to [covid-19@fsd145](mailto:covid-19@fsd145).
- Please also view our website for reopening information. [Back to School Reponse](#)

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Please reach out to us with any questions.

*Dr. Anna Alvarado*  
Superintendent of Schools

**GRAB-N-GO MEAL ORDERING & PICK-UP  
FOR A/B STUDENTS (7-12) AND REMOTE LEARNERS**

| <p>GROUP A<br/>(Monday &amp; Thursday)<br/>Grades 7-12</p>   | <p>GROUP B<br/>(Tuesday &amp; Friday)<br/>Grades 7-12</p>  | <p>REMOTE LEARNING BY CHOICE<br/>(5 days/week) Pre-K- 12</p>  |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Will receive meals for Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday</li> <li>● 3 Breakfast and 3 Lunches</li> <li>● Saturday Morning Pick up from 9:00 AM – Noon</li> <li>● The next Saturday pick-up for Grab and Go is on September 26th</li> <li>● Location: FHS / on Empire St. Entrance Door O</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Will receive meals for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday</li> <li>● 3 Breakfast and 3 Lunches</li> <li>● Saturday Morning Pick up from 9:00 AM – Noon</li> <li>● The next Saturday pick-up for Grab and Go is on September 26th.</li> <li>● Location: FHS / on Empire St. Entrance Door O</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Will receive meals for 5 days.</li> <li>● 5 Breakfasts and 5 Lunches</li> <li>● Meal pick up once a week on Saturdays at FHS from 9 AM-noon</li> <li>● Parents who cannot pick up meals will have the option of having meals delivered to them by the Transportation Dept. on Saturday mornings.</li> <li>● To utilize our meal delivery service, during registration for remote learning you will need to indicate the need for drop-off.</li> <li>● If you are not signed up and are now unable to pick up meals on Saturday you may sign up for delivery by contacting Transportation at 815-232-0580. A week's advance notice is required before your first delivery will be scheduled.</li> <li>● NDS staff members will ride the bus with the driver to pass meals out and complete proper meal counting.</li> <li>● Saturday, Sept.26, is the next pick up or drop off day for meals: Pick-up Location: FHS / on Empire St. Entrance Door O</li> <li>● If you signed up for food drop off, please make sure someone is home to receive the meals.</li> <li>● If your student is returning back to school and will not be remote learning anymore, meals will not be delivered or passed out to your student on Saturday.</li> </ul> |

## **Procedures for Meal Pick Up on Saturdays**

Families will enter into FHS staff parking (by practice football field) park in a parking spot, pop their trunk open, place a mask on their face and wait for a NDS staff member to approach their vehicle. NDS staff will then approach the vehicle with a mask on and ask the following questions:

1. What school(s) is (are) your student(s) enrolled?
2. If they answer FMS or FHS, we will verify which group they are in. Group A or Group B.
3. Number of students will be verified, an NDS staff member will radio the kitchen with the quantity needed for both breakfast and lunch with a parking spot number.
4. NDS kitchen staff members will bring out complete reimbursable meals, place it into the car trunk and close it.
5. Meal counting will take place as we verify student information, a Surface tablet will be used for our mobile point of sale meeting ISBE requirements.

## **INTERNET ESSENTIALS**



Internet access has become a much needed service over the last few months and will continue to be into the future.

FSD families may qualify for District sponsored internet service. To determine eligibility and sign-up, please contact our Technology Department at  
**(815) 232-0569**