



October 16, 2020

Greetings Freeport Parents/Guardians,

The wind has certainly picked up and fall is in the air! Please make sure your students have a coat, hat, boots, snow pants and gloves ready for the coming weeks. Reach out to your building FRC (Family Resource Coordinator) if you have any questions or need assistance meeting your students' needs. They are always ready to help!

COVID 19 Update & District Closure Communication

Last week we communicated that our rising positivity rate in the county may impact our ability to continue to provide in person instruction for our students. After many conversations with the Health Department, we have come to better understand the delay in trend reporting that can impact the percentage publicly available on the IDPH website. Our Health Department has additional trend data by community within the county and can see which local communities are most affected and other important data regarding the positive persons within that community.

While this more finite data is not publicly available, we do rely on the Stephenson County Health Department to guide our decision making in the best interests of students and staff of our District. Please know that we continue to be in contact multiple times daily with the Health Department to monitor the same numbers that you are monitoring. If the Health Department advises that the County positivity rate as well as the Freeport community local trend data indicates Freeport Schools need to close, we will follow their recommendations in order to protect students and staff and reduce spread of the virus. We have also committed to an ongoing review of our contingency metrics to make sure that we remain current with the CDC and IDPH guidelines in case we need to amend our plan and get school board approval.

We will continue to be as proactive as possible and send home chromebooks when we have concerns about the data trends, especially over a weekend. 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 FSD145 social media platforms.

Make Time for a “Couch Conversation” with Each of your Students at Least Once a Week

Now that we are two months into the school year, many of our students have completed enough work that you can ask them about their learning progress. While the digital tools they are using this year may be unfamiliar to many parents, the active questions about your students' homework and assessment scores are familiar parent territory. We encourage you to make it a priority to sit down together once a week for a parent-guardian/student goal setting “couch conversation” to ask your student to show you/talk about what they accomplished this week and what their goals are for the next week to be a better student. For example: Schoology provides a great deal of data to tell parents how long students have spent on each task and provides a window to a deeper conversation about effort and the relationship to grades.

Push for Student Attendance:

We are asking parents and guardians to please make sure that students have good attendance and are participating in their classes, both in person and remote. It is important for students to feel connected with their peers and teachers, particularly when they are full remote learners. We appreciate your help in this much critical area of partnership.

Heads Up Dates:

- October 19-23 is National Principal Appreciation Week (It would be a great time to show our principals our appreciation for their leadership. They have played a critical role during this pandemic in helping keep our students and staff safe. They have demonstrated a strong commitment to our district and for this, we are grateful for all they do). #ThankAPrincipal
- Friday, October 30 - End of First Quarter Grade Reporting Period
- Tuesday, November 3 - Election Day -- NO SCHOOL
- Wednesday, November 4 - Parent-Teacher Conferences -- NO SCHOOL

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parents should be watching email and bookbags for information regarding parent/teacher conferences coming up on November 4. Many teachers will offer options either on November 4 or on alternate dates. New this year: Guardians and teachers can meet either in person, over the phone, or on a zoom call. Please tell your student's teachers which method works best for your family at this time.

Immunizations and Physical Examination Exclusion from School was October 15

Just another reminder to parents/guardians who still need to make a doctor's appointment for their child's physicals and/or immunization, to please do so. Please call your child's school nurse and provide documentation of a doctor's appointment so they can return to school ASAP. Remote learners will have to meet this requirement once a return to in- person instruction is either requested by the parent or mandated by the district. The following are the requirements for children in Illinois schools:

- PK/K/New to district - updated immunizations and health physical
- 6th grade - updated immunizations and health physical
- 9th grade - updated immunizations and health physical
- 12th grade - third shot meningococcal

WEEKLY REMINDERS

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.

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](#). Please call your student(s)'s schools with any questions or concerns.

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 (Monday & Thursday) Grades 7-12</p>	<p>GROUP B (Tuesday & Friday) Grades 7-12</p>	<p>REMOTE LEARNING BY CHOICE (5 days/week) Pre-K- 12</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will receive meals for Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday ● 3 Breakfast and 3 Lunches ● Saturday Morning Pick up from 9:00 AM – Noon ● The next Saturday pick-up for Grab and Go is on October 17. ● Location: FHS / on Empire St. Entrance Door O 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will receive meals for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday ● 3 Breakfast and 3 Lunches ● Saturday Morning Pick up from 9:00 AM – Noon ● The next Saturday pick-up for Grab and Go is on October 17. ● Location: FHS / on Empire St. Entrance Door O 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will receive meals for 5 days. ● 5 Breakfasts and 5 Lunches ● Meal pick up once a week on Saturdays at FHS from 9 AM-noon ● Parents who cannot pick up meals will have the option of having meals delivered to them by the Transportation Dept. on Saturday mornings. ● To utilize our meal delivery service, during registration for remote learning you will need to indicate the need for drop-off. ● 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. ● NDS staff members will ride the bus with the driver to pass meals out and complete proper meal counting. ● October 17, is the next pick up or drop off day for meals: Pick-up Location: FHS / on Empire St. Entrance Door O ● If you signed up for food drop off, please make sure someone is home to receive the meals. ● 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.

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