



October 23, 2020

Greetings Freeport Parents/Guardians,

This week has brought summer, fall and winter all within one week. Whew! I'll take the warmer weather for as long as we can have it. The snow may have melted quickly, but it sure seems a bit early for winter!

COVID-19 Board Approved Closure Update

This week the positivity rate continues to run at 8% or above in our county. Initially, the District presented that data trending at or above 8% would cause closure of schools. Over the last two weeks, the administrative staff has received guidance regarding additional data points from the Stephenson County Health Department (SCHD). Craig Beintema, the Director of the SCHD, presented to the Board on two occasions this week.

At great length, Board members discussed that when the Board first approved the plan, our region and county did not have the school based data that we have now. The Board held a special meeting on Wednesday, October 21, following their regular October 20 Board Meeting, to review the current county and school based data and to approve the new metrics:

[Review Amended Metrics](#)

Safety procedures at school (i.e. - building and bus sanitization, wearing masks, daily symptom checks, etc.) are working to keep us in school. While positive cases have occurred and there have been precautionary measures taken to quarantine students and staff on some occasions, there is not unmitigated spread occurring in our schools. This is not about moving the target, but using more finite data and a different lens aimed specifically at school related metrics to make the best decisions for students and staff, after we have attended school for two months during a pandemic.

The pandemic continues to be a constantly evolving situation. We have learned that one data point alone is not enough data, and a better way to consider decisions of the magnitude of closing the District requires us to look at multiple data points.

Board members expressed that they know that as new information continues to become available, they will continue to need to meet and there will likely need to be subsequent updates to our metrics. Be assured that through the partnership of FSD & SCHD the Board will act in the best interest for the safety of staff and students.

Heads Up Dates:

- 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 (for students)

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.

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 24. ● 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 24. ● 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 24, 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