



December 11, 2020

Dear FSD 145 Staff and Families,

As we approach our final week of school before Winter Break, I hope that this week's communication finds your family well and gearing up to safely celebrate the upcoming holidays. Please note below important information regarding Remote Learning by Choice and other reminders you will find helpful over the next few weeks.

Remote Learning By Choice (RLBC)

Families who selected RLBC in the beginning of the school year:

Remote Learning by Choice will continue through the end of the school year. No action is required for families who selected Remote Learning by Choice for the first semester to continue learning remotely for the rest of the school year.

Families who wish to change their selection to or from RLBC should follow the processes below

- **In-person to Remote-** Sign up using the [Remote Learning by Choice](#) form.
- **Remote to In-Person-** Contact the ETC at 815-232-0580 or your student's school to request a return to in-person. Families who wish to switch for the start of the 2nd semester must make their decision known by January 6, 2021.

Placements for students returning to the classroom after being Remote Learning by Choice are made every two weeks and are dependent on building capacity. Elementary students may be offered a spot in a different school building if their home school capacity has been met. This is a temporary solution.

The next scheduled return to in person instruction date is January 4. Additional return dates are offered every two weeks for the remainder of the school year depending on openings that take into consideration staff availability and our ability to maintain social distancing in classrooms.

What to expect for the remainder of the full remote learning period:

Student Recognition

To assist with increasing attendance and engagement of all students during remote learning, the district will continue its recognition program for students in each school.

- First, we have encouraged teachers, staff and administrators to send a postcard to all students. Postcards will be mailed during the Winter Holiday Break.
- Secondly, the Equity Department will provide Holiday Bags to random students from each school who have participated for at least 75% of the time during Remote Instruction and completed at least 70% of their work; whether in an asynchronous or synchronous learning environment. The Holiday Bags will be delivered to the selected students' homes during the week of December 14, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, before the holiday break.

- Finally, each school will continue to “virtually” recognize students during remote learning through our PBIS Incentive Program. [Student Recognition](#)

REMINDER: Additional Student Tutoring for Grades 7-12

We are entering week 2 of in person tutoring services for middle and high school students. I am urging students to consider taking advantage of this opportunity to meet with their teachers either in person or virtually in order to receive extra help and academic support.

FHS--Please note new and expanded in person tutoring times this final week before break!

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Online Learning 10-12:30 | Online Learning 10-12:30 | Asynchronous Learning | Online Learning 10-12:30 | Online Learning 10-12:30 |
| Tutoring 1-3 pm in person in Library AND on Zoom | Tutoring 1-3 pm in person in Library AND on Zoom | Tutoring 1-3 pm in person in Library AND on Zoom | Tutoring 1-3 pm in person in Library AND on Zoom | No tutoring on Friday |

In Addition: Athletic and Activities Coaches/Sponsors have also planned optional in person tutoring time for the coming weeks to support a strong finish to the semester. Coaches will communicate those details directly to players/participants.

Buses will pick up at the following locations and times:
 Cedarville Post Office **12:05** pm pick up **3:57** drop off
 Taylor Park School **12:20** pm pick up and **3:42** drop off
 MLK Community Building **12:27** pm pick up **3:36** drop off
 Monterey and Van Buren St **12:32** pm pick up and **3:30** drop off
 Waddell and Westview **12:40** pm pick up and **3:24** drop off
 Lincoln Douglas School **12:44** pm pickup and **3:15** drop off

All safety procedures will be observed during in-person tutoring such as temperature checks, social distancing, and masks.

FMS

| Monday (Dec 14) | Tuesday (Dec 15) | Thursday (Dec 17) | Friday (Dec 18) |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 10:30-12 @ FMS | 10:30-12 @ FMS | 10:30-12 @ FMS | 10:30-12 @ FMS |

Any A or B day student may attend in-person tutoring any day during the above times. This is an opportunity for students to receive help with technology, low grades, missing assignments, concept understanding, etc. All safety procedures will be observed during in-person tutoring such as temperature checks, social distancing, and masks.

Buses will pick up at the following locations and times:
 Cedarville Post Office **9:45** am pick up **12:55** drop off
 Taylor Park School **9:54** am pick up and **12:40** drop off
 MLK Community Building **10:01** am pick up **12:35** drop off

Monterey and Van Buren St **10:06** am pick up and **12:31** drop off
Waddell and Westview **10:14** am pick up and **12:25** drop off
Lincoln Douglas School **10:19** am pickup and **12:17** drop off

Online learning will continue each morning from 7:30-10:08 AM.

Special Services

As we continue with remote learning the special education staff will provide virtual instruction and services to students with individual education plans. It is important however to maintain the need to reach students who have extreme challenges with the virtual format.

- The teachers and staff have identified students who would continue to benefit from in-person services for part of their school week due to their needs.
- Most special education students identified for in-person services will be in the buildings for a minimum of an hour and no more than a half day to allow for cleaning/sanitizing between students.
- We will continue to provide these special in-person services to students identified supplementing with virtual, phone and email contacts as well.
- Further, the transportation department will keep the arranged transport to and from school in place for these students.

Expanded Remote Schedule for our Youngest Learners

Reminder: The hours during which elementary teachers will be working with students in real time (synchronously) will be expanded from 12:30-4:00. This expanded learning time better meets the needs of our youngest learners. Elementary teachers may also deliver small group lessons in the morning.

Holiday Cheer from our Fine Arts Students and Staff on PPN

- Episode 1 of the Freeport Student Spectacular "Seasons Greetings" from the FSD 145 Elves will be released on PPN (Pretzel Pride Network) early this next week. It will contain several student solos for grades 5-12, three songs by the FHS Choir and one song by the 8th grade orchestra.
- Episode 2 is a faculty video of Holiday selections called Freeport Teacher Spectacular.
- Episode 3 will be released by the end of the week with many other students featured.

FHS Student Council and Pretzel Pride Network Teachers Sponsor Food Drive at Bocker

Friday, Dec. 11, 2-4

Saturday, Dec. 12, 10-3

- All donations will go to the FACC (Freeport Area Church Cooperative).
- Donations can be dropped off at the Bocker Auto Group.
- For every 5 cans donated, donors will be entered into a drawing for gas and food gift cards.

Our communications end each week thanking you for your partnership. Please know the sincerity and sentiment of this statement comes from the heart of FSD. Continue to stay safe and be well. We are in this together.

With gratitude,

Dr. Anna Alvarado

Superintendent of Schools

-WEEKLY REMINDERS DURING FULL REMOTE LEARNING-

COVID-19 Positive Cases in FSD

Weekly the District updates staff & student positive cases as reported by the Stephenson County Health Department. [This information is available to view on our website](#) and will be updated on Fridays.

Important Reminder: Internet Sign-Up Deadline

The deadline for families to sign up under our Sponsored Internet Program with Comcast ends on 12/31/2020. After that time, we will not be able to sponsor additional families for 2020-2021 school year.

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.

Chromebooks, Technology Support & Assistance

Chromebooks

If you do not have your student's assigned Chromebook at home, please contact their school and make arrangements to pick it up.

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>

Appropriate Use of Technology - Important Reminder

As more students are learning remotely, it is a good time to remind families of the ["Agreement for the Appropriate Use of District Issued Technology Equipment"](#) that was signed by parents and students when Chromebooks were issued. Please keep in mind that district Chromebooks run through the school district's filtering system, regardless if they are on home or community wi-fi. Inappropriate use of a FSD145 district device sends an alert to our tech department and may result in having the device taken away or in a disciplinary action for the student. Please remind your student(s) that they should never search for inappropriate content or in any way use their Chromebook that is not considered appropriate for school.

Reporting Absences

During the remote learning period, if your student is ill, symptomatic, or cannot attend school for any other reason, please notify the school office just as you would if they were attending school in person.

Nutrition and Dining Services Winter Break Schedule

All Grab n Go locations will be open on Monday's **only** during winter break. Students will receive 4 breakfasts and 4 lunches on each Monday pick up date. Grab n Go sites will not be open on Wednesday or Friday during winter break. For families that are enrolled in our Saturday bus delivery program you will receive deliveries on Saturday, December 26th, 2020 and Saturday January 2nd, 2021 as normal.

Nutrition and Dining Meal Pick Up Locations and Times:

| School Pick-Up Site | Location | Days and Times (Families can select one of the times that work best for them. 4 days of breakfast and lunch will be provided each week of Winter Break) |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Center Elementary | Center Street Parking Lot, Pick Up at Door I | Monday, December 21st, 2020 Monday, December 28th, 2020 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM |
| Carl Sandburg | Lower Level Parking Lot, Pick Up at Door O | Monday, December 21st, 2020 Monday, December 28th, 2020 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM |
| Freeport High School | Empire Street Entrance, Pick Up at Door O | Monday, December 21st, 2020 Monday, December 28th, 2020 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM |
| Taylor Park | School Parking Lot | Monday, December 21st, 2020 Monday, December 28th, 2020 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM |

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Winter Break - December 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021. Students will return to school on Monday, January 4, 2021.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - Monday, January 18, 2021 - District Closed
- District Institute Day January 27, 2021 - No School for Students

Feedback & Questions

If you have missed our weekly communications to families, you can read them here. [Weekly & Special Community Communications](#). Please call your student(s)'s schools with any questions or co