



December 18, 2020

Dear FSD 145 Staff and Families,

Winter Break is upon us!

### **Return to In-Person & Hybrid Learning**

We will return to In-Person & Hybrid Learning on 01/04/21. We are excitedly looking forward to having our students back in the classroom. Thank you again to both staff and families for your continued support. So far, our infection rates in the district among staff is 0, and there are currently 2 student cases. We do have a few staff in quarantine. Thank you to all of you for your help in making sacrifices by continuing to observe safety measures such as mask wearing, social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings.

While we are excited over the news of the COVID-19 vaccine, we are still awaiting word from our partners from the SCHD when it will be made available to staff members and the general public in Stephenson County. We see the light at the end of the tunnel, but we are still in the tunnel. Therefore, I urge everyone to keep up the good fight so we can resume our building operations and welcome students and staff back for 2021.

### **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.

### **FHS Tutoring Continues Over Break**

Tutoring continues on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, 1-3 pm, both weeks of break. No busing is available.

## Deadline Nearing for District Sponsored Internet

**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.

## Nutrition and Dining Services Winter Break Schedule

All Grab N Go locations will be open **on Mondays 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  
***All District Offices will be closed on 12/24, 12/25, 12/31 and 01/01, open all other days***
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - Monday, January 18, 2021 - District Closed
- District Institute Day January 27, 2021 - No School for Students

### **Holiday Cheer from our Fine Arts Students and Staff on PPN**

[Please take a moment to enjoy these spectacular holiday performances!](#)

### **FHS Food Drive Exceeds Expectations**

On Friday & Saturday December 11th & 12th, the FHS Student Council, Pretzel Pride Network and the FHS Faculty sponsored a food drive at Bocker Auto Group. Mr. Tim Connors, one of the coordinators of the event, indicated that more than 6000 pounds of food (including mostly healthy food choices) and over \$1600 in cash donations were raised. All proceeds from this event were donated to the Freeport Area Church Cooperative. Thank you to the Freeport community and our FSD families for making this possible. Special thanks to Mr. Delbert Bunker and the great folks at Bocker Auto Group.

The Freeport Food Drive raised 2984 pounds valued at \$6,714.00. Simply amazing!!

### **COVID-19 Positive Cases in FSD**

On a weekly basis the District updates staff and 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.

*Because of the holidays, the next update will be 01/08/21.*

### **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 comments. **Our next communication will be sent on Friday, January 1, 2021.**

### **Holiday Message from the Superintendent & Board of Education**

As 2020 quickly draws to a close I am reminded of the love, joy and peace that this time of year brings. In spite of the challenges this year has brought there is still much to be grateful for. Our holidays may look differently than they have in prior years, but the love of family, the joy of giving, and the peace of knowing that it will not always be like this, bring great comfort.

On behalf of the Board of Education and myself we wish you the Happiest of Holidays. Please stay safe and be well. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! We are ready for 2021!

With gratitude,

*Dr. Anna Alvarado*

Superintendent of Schools