



March 12, 2021

Dear FSD 145 Staff and Families,

SPRING FORWARD! Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday!

We are excited to see the number of COVID cases consistently remaining low in our district and community. It has now been a year since our schools had to transition to offering virtual learning due to the pandemic. We are now starting to see things change for the better. This week, we have received a revised public health guidance for schools from the IL Dept, of Public Health and the IL State Board of Education. We are reviewing our options to be able to increase the number of days for in-person learning, particularly for students in grades 7-12.

Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools as of March 9, 2021

Original Guidance	Revised Guidance
Space Capacity Limits	
Limited to 50 persons or less, based on the number of individuals the space can accommodate with social distancing.	Determined by the space's ability to accommodate social distancing, and not a set capacity limit, number or percentage.
Bus Capacity Limits	
Limited to no more than 50 passengers.	Bus capacity remains limited to no more than 50 passengers.
Social Distancing & Personal Protective Equipment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distance for in-person learning defined as 6 feet for students and staff. • The expectation pertains to students and staff members in all areas and settings to the greatest extent possible. • Face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings even when social distancing is maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn outside if social distance is maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distance for in-person learning is now defined as 3 to 6 feet for students and fully vaccinated staff. • Maintaining 6 feet remains the safest distance, but schools can operate at no less than 3 feet in order to provide in-person learning. • Unvaccinated staff should maintain 6 feet social distance as much as possible because adults remain more susceptible to infection than children. • All persons must wear a face mask at all times, unless a specific exemption applies. Strict adherence to social distancing must be

	maintained when face masks are removed in limited situations and monitored by school staff.
Symptom Screening	
Schools must conduct temperature and symptom screenings or require self-certification and verification for all staff, students and visitors entering school buildings.	Schools are no longer recommended to conduct temperature checks. FSD will continue its practice with temperature and symptom screenings at this time. Schools and districts should require symptom free self-certification and verification for all staff, students, and visitors prior to entering school buildings.

Next Steps for FSD:

Based on this revised guidance, our next steps include:

- Survey all families of remote learners to gather information on their interest in return to in -person learning
- Double check staffing levels and transportation capabilities and work with our unions to ensure a smooth transition
- Arrange to bring back interested students (Date to be determined once we have all the information we need from the survey). It will allow us to assess space utilization with the required minimum 3 ft. for social distancing.

More information to come.

FHS Winter Sports Recognition

Congratulations to the following students and staff.

Ty Collalti

Winter Sport Season Most Valuable Athlete

Latonia Lacy

Winter Sport Season Perseverance

Brooklyn Sellers

Winter Sport Season Sportsmanship

Theford Jackson

Winter Sport Coach of the Year

Women’s History Month

The International Women’s Day falls on March 8 every year. This day is celebrated to acknowledge the economic, political, social and cultural achievements of women from all walks of life. The day is celebrated globally, highlighting the struggles and achievements of women. Women across the globe come together to rally for gender parity and highlight the role of women in bringing out important changes.

The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2021 is 'Choose To Challenge'. A challenging world is an alert world, and from challenge comes change. So, let's all #ChooseToChallenge

As we celebrate Women’s History Month 2021, we reflect upon advances women have made over the last decade. Women have increased their earnings and education, fields of occupation and continued to live longer than men.

Similar to celebrating Black History Month, the Equity Department is collaborating with the Curriculum and Instruction Department to provide additional resources to assist teachers and staff with engaging students in dialogue and conversations around the accomplishments of Women, Past and Present.

New Student Enrollment for 2021-2022 School Year

Enrollment for new students to FSD 145 is currently open. Please visit the [Enrollment page](#) of our District website to register incoming Kindergarten students and other students not currently enrolled in our district. If you do not have computer access or need assistance with this process, you can visit our Transportation & Enrollment Department at 2037 W. Galena Ave. The office is open from 8 AM to 5 PM. Computers are also

available at the Freeport Public Library and the Boys & Girls Club of Freeport & Stephenson Co. Please be sure to wear a mask when visiting any of these locations.

Summer School 2020 Dates

The dates for our Summer Learning program have been set. Further details will be communicated as they are finalized.

Grade Level	Dates	Location
1-6	06/21/21 - 07/29/21	Carl Sandburg School
7-8	06/21/21 - 07/29/21	Freeport Middle School
9-12	06/07/21 - 07/15/21	Freeport High School

Remote Learning By Choice (RLBC)

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. Return dates are offered every two weeks for the remainder of the school year. Placement depends on openings that take into consideration building capacity, staff availability and our ability to maintain social distancing in classrooms. 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 deadline to request a return to in-person placement is **03/23/21**. Requests received by this date will begin in-person instruction on **04/06/21**, if capacity in buildings/classrooms allow.

FSD 145 Hiring: Bus Drivers & Monitors, Secretary, Substitute Custodians

FSD currently has openings for school bus drivers and monitors, an Enrollment and Transportation secretary and substitute custodians. Persons interested in joining our Transportation or Facilities & Grounds teams can apply [online](#).

Our Transportation Department will hold an Open House for those interested in becoming a driver or monitor. See details in the flyer.



2021 Illinois Reads Book Festival Scheduled For March 13

The 2021 Illinois Reads Book Festival will be held virtually 10 a.m.-noon on March 13. It is free and open to the public. Every year, the Illinois Reads team identifies 36 books to promote – six books each at six different age/grade bands, from birth to adulthood. Illinois Reads activities typically begin with a kickoff Book Festival in March and conclude with Family Reading Night activities in November. Click this [link](#) to learn more about this event.

WEEKLY REMINDERS

COVID Vaccination & Positivity Rate Updates from the Stephenson County Health Department

The overall 7-day rolling positivity rate is 3% in Stephenson County as of Mar. 09, and 2.4% in Region 1. As of 03/11/2021, SCHD has notified us that there are 1 active student and 0 active staff cases in FSD. Information regarding our [COVID statistics](#) can be viewed on our website.

Grab-N-Go & Meal Delivery & Pick-up

For families signed up for **bus delivery** you will receive a delivery tomorrow, March 13. Also, tomorrow is the next pick-up date at **Carl Sandburg School (lower level parking lot, door O)** from 10 am - Noon, for Group A / Group B blended students and any remote choice learners who are not on the bus delivery route.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no delivery or pickup service on Saturday, March 20, because of Spring Break.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Spring Break - March 22-26, 2021
- Special Holidays (Easter Weekend) - Friday, April 2, and Monday April 5, 2021

Antigen Testing for COVID

The Stephenson County Health Department has offered to provide the district with test kits at no cost to the district in order to monitor high risk sports and activities in our schools. [More details are provided on our website.](#)

Feedback & Questions

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

This last year has been a journey, one that we've gone through together. I cannot express enough how thankful I am for our staff, our families and our community. It is truly this partnership that has allowed us to continue the educational process in FSD over the last year. I am forever grateful for each of you!

Have a great weekend!

With gratitude,

Dr. Anna Alvarado

Superintendent of Schools