



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee January 12, 2021 School Committee Meeting

"Franklin, Do Your Part"

You may have seen that there is a big public service campaign across town entitled "Franklin, Do Your Part!". This effort is an appeal to the community to do the right things in order to keep friends and family members safe during the pandemic, particularly at this time when we are forced indoors.

We want to remind our families about things they can and should be doing to assist us in our efforts. We are seeing an escalation of case numbers with 23 cases last week and I anticipate that we will exceed that number this week.

1. We have heard rumors and seen videos that we can't easily substantiate where it appears that there were house parties over Winter Break. In these videos, it is difficult to tell if/which high school students are present and it is difficult to know that these videos are current.

Nevertheless, it is highly possible that these events occurred and are very concerning. We directly appeal to the community that gatherings happening outside of school are limited and, if done, are safe -- including mask wearing, physical distancing, outside wherever possible, and in small numbers with people who are frequently together (such as household members).

2. We are hearing that families are traveling on weekends that may include out of state travel. Families are advised that COVID testing on Thursday before they go out of state for the weekend can not be used to return to Massachusetts, per the Governor's Executive Order. Therefore, families can not use that Thursday test to support student attendance in school on Monday.

Other districts have stricter travel requirements and ask for families to submit test results that take place 4-5 days after returning from out of state travel. I think the district should consider stricter requirements in the future. We will continue to keep families informed of any changes.

3. We are having an increase in the number of cases that are not being reported directly to our school nursing staff. While we modified our approach during winter break, we ask

"Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice"
Equal Opportunity Employer

that parents/guardians resume telling school nurses of students who are testing positive for COVID-19. The notification of the schools directly accelerates our ability to complete contact tracing as there is a time lag in the communication of information when we receive it from the public health nurses.

We all must do our part to keep everyone in the Franklin community safe.

Pool Testing Pilot Opportunity

Earlier today, I sent a message out to families about an opportunity for pool testing. My letter to the families and to faculty/staff can be found here:

Pool testing is promising in keeping the spread of the Coronavirus contained in the school setting.

I'd like to share a few images with the School Committee to make sure everyone has the same knowledge and information about pool testing.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LSVn7oAsSoctppACxdUFWkTphMiK6aAXs5ljxY3jIl8/edit?usp=sharing>

The efficacy of this is dependent on the percentage of people participating. We would love for 100% but will target 80% of participation from our families and faculty/staff. Surveys will be going out to gauge interest in advance of a commitment to DESE. Formal consent to be tested will be obtained prior to the beginning.

We will hold a Q and A session for faculty/staff tomorrow at 3 PM.

We will hold a webinar for families on Thursday evening at 7 PM.

Professional Development Preview -- January 13, 2021

- ECDC will be working on Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) analysis and then planning for instruction using the results of that analysis. This assessment is a version of the DESSA assessment used at the elementary level but designed for Early Childhood learners.
- Teachers in Grades K-3 will be participating in training for the NWEA (formerly known as the Northwest Evaluation Association) assessment. In late January and early February, grades K-2 will be assessed in Oral Reading Fluency and Grade 3 will be assessed in Math. Training will be facilitated by NWEA consultants with administrators and curriculum specialists in attendance to assist.
- Grade 4 and 5 teachers will be working on the priority standards and planning for instruction.

- All middle school teachers will be working with our consultant from Keys to Literacy and then working to implement the Keys strategies into their lesson plans. Teachers will be working to integrate the priority standards, the Keys strategies, and planning for instruction. This PD is planned for all subjects and teachers in all roles at the middle level including special education, music, art, PE, Spanish, etc. This work will also be facilitated by middle school administrators.
- At FHS teachers will be working by department on the priority standards and planning for instruction. Each department will have groups of teachers working together who teach the same or similar courses sharing materials, resources, and ideas. Department heads and Directors will facilitate this work.
- Adjustment counselors and psychologists will be working together on tiered systems of supports for students spanning from PreK-12. Nurses will be working on planning and collaborating with one another.

Congratulations to Dr. Joyce Edwards

Dr. Joyce Edwards has announced her retirement from Franklin Public Schools effective at the end of June. We acknowledge and honor our retirees later in the year and I will elaborate more then. However, I want to pause at this time to share this news with the community and to thank Joyce for her tremendous commitment and dedication to the children of Franklin for the past ten years. I got to know Joyce as a colleague when I was holding a similar role in Holliston and I know exactly the types of things her office has been tasked with in this past decade. Race to the Top seems like ages ago.

At this time, I am planning thoughtfully, as I strive to do, about next steps and will keep the Committee informed.