



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report November 22, 2022

"Text to 911" program and "Silent Call Procedure"

The MA Office of Public Safety: State 911 Department oversees and maintains the statewide 911 system. In an effort to educate our community, they have shared information about two lifesaving features that we may not know about:

1. Text to 911 - allows a person who is unable to speak to text and communicate with a 911 dispatcher.
2. Silent Call Procedure - allows a person unable to speak to call 9-1-1, and when the dispatcher answers, press 1 for police, 2 for fire, and 3 for an ambulance; so the dispatcher can immediately send help.

They offered to share public education materials with our community, and we have submitted our request. As soon as we have more information, we will pass that along.

Snow Update

As this is New England, we are apt to have days when the weather is inclement, and it is important our families understand how the process works to be as prepared as possible. You can find details regarding inclement weather procedures on our website under the "About Us" tab - [Inclement Weather Notice](#).

National Banner Recognition

Congratulations to Franklin High School for once again receiving National Banner recognition from Special Olympics International! Our school successfully achieved national standards of excellence in the areas of inclusion, advocacy, and respect! We are 1 of only 12 schools in Massachusetts among 164 schools nationwide to achieve this status. A representative from Special Olympics International attended the FHS pep rally today to present our school with its second consecutive banner and credited our students, coaches, staff, and administration.

DEI Update on Saturday's deep dive

The Franklin Public School hosted a DEI Deep Dives series to engage in collaborative dialogue this past Saturday morning, November 19th, at the Franklin Public Library. Following a brief presentation focused on further defining DEI and belonging as means

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

to help foster a safe and inclusive school community. Participants then engaged in interactive activities aimed at developing connections within the room. We then solicited community feedback related to the culture and climate portion of the equity audit using a structured group processing protocol.

I want to thank our [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) Director, Heidi Harris, for planning and co-facilitating the sessions, Paula Marano and Lily Rivera, for their support throughout the event and our community members who attended. This information shared will be helpful as we look to deepen our understanding and plan ahead.

Redistricting Update

We held our first Redistricting Analysis Advisory Committee meeting on November 15th, facilitated by our redistricting consultants from Applied Geographics. The purpose of this meeting was to provide context for the work as we begin the process. Specifically, we discussed Project Goals and Objectives, Timeline, Approach/Workflow, Guiding Principles, Town Background, and District Background and concluded with Questions/Discussion. Our next meeting will take place on December 20th.

We are at the beginning stages of this process that will unfold over the coming months. During this time, we will analyze our enrollment data, facility usage, and demographic and geographic information. This will be a very thorough, well-thought-out, and transparent process. After seeking feedback from our community and the Redistricting Analysis Advisory Committee, the Space Needs Subcommittee will present findings along with possible recommendations for the School Committee to consider in late Spring 2023.

At this time, nothing has been brought forth to the School Committee, in an open public meeting, for any discussion or a vote regarding redistricting. We will explore a variety of scenarios as part of our analysis; no scenarios have been ruled out or predetermined at this time. We are currently compiling information to share on our website for our community to reference, and it should be available next week.

At-Home COVID Test Kits

As previously shared with the community, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) provided districts with a one-time distribution of at-home COVID-19 tests as an optional resource for families.

Test kits were distributed to staff and students this week. Please note that the expiration dates on the tests have been extended to January 2023. Testing is not

required following the Thanksgiving or December breaks. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your school administrator.

Happy Thanksgiving

As we pause for a break this Thanksgiving, it is the perfect time to thank our staff and administrators for all the work they do every day for Franklin's children. I also want to thank our Franklin School Committee for their support throughout the year and wish our entire community a peaceful Thanksgiving with friends and family.