



Franklin Public Schools

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Happy New Year!

Back from the holiday and back into the swing of things.

½ Day PD

This Friday, January 13th, will be a half day for students. Teachers will engage in various professional learning activities across levels in the afternoon. Elementary teachers will continue their Science of Reading professional development. At the middle level, teachers will continue their work to prepare Student-Led Conferences. At the high school, our teachers continue to collaborate within departments on curriculum development with a specific focus on Portrait of Graduate skills facilitated by our Department Heads.

Health Reminders

I sent an email as we returned from the winter break to families. During the height of travel and gatherings, it is a good time to remind everyone of our current health practices. There were reports of a surge of flu, COVID, and Respiratory Viral Illnesses. Our goal is to maximize our ability to keep students and staff healthy and minimize absences due to illnesses during a high-risk period. The following health and safety practices remain in place.

Masks - While masking is not required, any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face a higher risk from COVID-19, will be supported in that choice. They are available at each school.

Monitoring Symptoms - We ask families to continue monitoring children for symptoms, keep them home when sick, and test them if appropriate. For call-in procedures, please reference your school's handbook.

Test Kits - 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 the week before Thanksgiving break. Please note that the expiration dates on the tests have been extended to January 2023. Parents/Guardians can contact their child's school office to request an additional test kit.

Hand Hygiene - We will continue to implement good hand hygiene practices. Students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day (using hand sanitizer, if needed). Custodians are being asked to double-check hand sanitizer units and restock if needed.

Ventilation - All classrooms and workspaces have been outfitted with portable HEPA filtration units, and our schools are outfitted with UVGI (ultraviolet germicidal irradiation) air filtration.

Adult Literacy

Our friends at the Franklin Public Library are offering free English and adult literacy tutoring for adults who are learning English. We will share more information with families. You can also visit the Franklin Public Library or their website for more information.

Genocide Education Grant Allocation

We are pleased to share that Franklin has been awarded a Genocide Education Grant of \$31,320.

Through this funding of we have the opportunity to expand access to meaningful genocide education for all Franklin students. In the award letter signed by the Governor and Lt Governor they state, "By engaging with challenging histories and critically analyzing the lessons of the past, students will build the skills they need to recognize and challenge injustice in the future." You may recall the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed the [Genocide Education Act](#), which was filed by our own state Rep. Jeff Roy.

Special thanks to Dr. Timothy Frazier for submitting this proposal to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The application included proposals to develop a clear scope of learning opportunities for students. Funding allows teacher collaboration time to craft meaningful lessons on the components of genocide, including human rights, identity, and historical context. Funding also allows for a partnership with Facing History to provide professional development for teachers and to bring opportunities for survivor visits and presentations to students.