



Franklin Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent
355 East Central Street; Suite 3
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038
Phone: 508-553-4819

November 1, 2020

Dear Franklin High School Faculty/Staff and Families,

We are disappointed to share that despite the excitement, preparation, and planning to welcome students to FHS for hybrid instruction, this transition will be delayed by two weeks as a result of a public health concern related to an underage drinking party that occurred last evening. We have consulted with our local health department in making this decision.

The administration learned of an indoor party that occurred last evening at a home where approximately 25-50 high school students had attended. Information from the Franklin Police, who broke up the party, identified a small number of students who had been in attendance, however many attendees scattered and we are unable to identify everyone. Attendees were not wearing masks and were not social distancing. This behavior puts everyone at Franklin High School at risk and we have no choice but to remain in the remote setting for another two weeks, until Monday, November 16, 2020. This includes students who were in person last week.

Students in the STRIVE program will attend in person and will not be remote. FHS faculty and staff will still report to the school building. FHS athletic practices and games will be cancelled for two weeks.

Our preschool will remain in person and our K-8 schools will remain in a hybrid instructional model. However, if your child attended this party and has younger siblings, for the health and safety of all, we urge you to keep those children at home over the next two weeks. Remote instruction will be provided.

We know that there will be many students and families who share our disappointment and frustration. It doesn't feel fair that the behavior of a small number has such a detrimental effect on the entire high school community. We know that there are many students who are eager to return and we are similarly eager to see them in our halls and classrooms. Many, many hours have been spent adjusting schedules, planning lessons, and physically preparing our high school facility for safe in person instruction. Having students attend school in person requires a commitment on everyone's part to follow the health and safety practices of wearing masks, washing hands, maintaining physical distancing, keeping gathering sizes small, and not taking unnecessary risks.

Sincerely,

Sara Ahern
Superintendent of Schools

Josh Hanna
FHS Principal