



July 1, 2020

Dear Franklin families,

It's July 1, the date many of us expected to hear the Governor's announcement about how schools will reopen mid-August. Unfortunately, as you may have heard, we are no longer expecting this decision today, and no new date has been set. It is a summer of uncertainty, and we know how challenging this is for all families. To our new families, we understand this must be even more difficult!

Since early May, we have been working on our plans for re-opening. Our process has involved input from teachers, staff, students, and our parents. Planning for three different re-opening scenarios is challenging, and we have some details yet to finalize. However, we want to provide you with plans as of this point, and assure you that we will be ready to welcome students on August 18, whatever plan the State selects.

Under all plans, we are making significant investments this summer in technology, in order to provide 1:1 Chromebooks for all students and new devices for teachers that can better support remote instruction. We will continue to use Canvas as the platform for all lessons and assignments. For those of you new to our school, we will provide training for parents and students to help you learn to navigate Canvas successfully!

Plan A: The New "Normal"

The State's "Plan A" provides for in-person instruction with moderate social distancing. While all considerations for personal responsibility (mask-wearing, daily health screenings, hand washing) and increased facility cleaning are in place, students and staff return to school, following a regular schedule.

Students may participate via remote instruction under Plan A. All lessons will be available on Canvas. As all teachers will be providing in-person instruction on a full-time basis, students will generally be expected to be able to work independently, with access to support via email and designated virtual office hours. The school will work with parents and students to develop individual plans for students who are unable to attend school due to documented medical conditions.

Plan B: Hybrid Remote and In-Person Learning

Under Plan B, stricter social distancing measures are in place, and the school will operate at 50% or less of its allowed occupancy. In many ways, this is the most challenging model to implement, yet the value of providing students with access to in-person instruction, when this can be done safely, far outweighs the operational challenges. Many of you have responded to our survey to help us as we prepare schedules for Plan B; if you have not yet done so please take a moment today! [Plan B Parent Survey](#)

We considered many options for Plan B, and we recognize that every approach has pros and cons. No plan is perfect. Our plan seeks to provide as much consistency and normalcy as possible, within the restrictions. Generally, students will be at school 2 days each week, and learning remotely 3 days. They will never go more than one day without access to their teachers for support, either in person or via virtual office hours. Students who are opting for fully remote learning will participate in the virtual daily check-ins.

- Students will attend school in person Monday and Thursday, or Tuesday and Friday. Students will participate remotely when they are not in school. All lessons will be available via Canvas.
- Wednesdays are reserved for small group in-person instruction for students who did not thrive in remote learning, and for 1:1 or small group virtual assistance available to all students.
- High school will maintain year-long classes, with electives meeting 4 days a week and core classes meeting on an A/B rotation. This means that students will meet with core classes in person one day each week. To provide for more consistency with core classes, students learning remotely will participate in short check-ins with their scheduled core classes each day.
- Middle school will follow its regular schedule of daily core classes and specials. Students learning remotely will have access to virtual support during set office hours.
- Crew will meet daily for all students. This may mean a short Crew check-in for all students, followed by a more extended lesson for students at school.

Plan C: Fully Remote

In preparing for Plan C, we are building from our experience this past spring. We learned a lot about what works and what is less successful. Plan C will differ from this past spring in a number of important ways that we believe will provide for greater student engagement and accountability, leading to better student learning. Students are expected to participate in learning on a daily (M-F) basis, and to attend all scheduled virtual check-ins.

- All lessons will be available on Canvas.
- High school will follow an abbreviated “normal” schedule for classes. Each scheduled class will include a short live (synchronous) virtual session, followed by time for students

to continue learning independently. Core classes will meet on an A/B rotation; Mondays/Thursdays will be A days and Tuesdays/Fridays will be B days.

- Middle school will implement an A/B rotation, like the high school schedule. Students will follow an abbreviated schedule, with live virtual sessions for two core classes daily and enrichment classes twice a week. Online sessions will be short (under 30 minutes) with time for students to complete work off-line.
- The general expectation is that students will attend the live sessions at the scheduled time. We will establish a process for parents to request an alternate schedule for students when this is necessary due to family circumstances, and live sessions will be recorded and posted so that students can access lessons later.
- Crew will meet daily for all grades.
- Wednesdays will be reserved for small group and 1:1 assistance via virtual office hours.

No matter how we re-open, our priority is the health and well-being of our students, staff, and families. In any scenario where we are together on campus, we will emphasize both institutional guidelines and directions, and personal responsibility, to ensure that we stay well together. This means we will put in place measures such as increased cleaning and sanitation, daily screening procedures for anyone entering our facilities, and a combination of education and easy access to supplies to make sure we all follow recommendations for hygiene and distancing. Students and staff will wear cloth face coverings. We will ask all staff and students to help, by staying home if they are not feeling well, and by following expected procedures.

We also understand that some families may not be ready for their students to return to school in person. We will offer a fully virtual learning opportunity that will provide access to the same curriculum as students who are returning to school. Every student will belong to a Crew, and will be engaged as an active member of our school community.

We will continue our planning efforts and will keep you informed as we learn more about how school will reopen on August 18. We will present our reopening plans to our Board of Directors at the July meeting, and will submit our Remote Instruction Plan to the State Board of Education on July 20. Please watch for upcoming surveys to help us determine needs for transportation and for our Beyond the Bell after school program.

If you have questions about our plans, please reach out to me or to high school principal Sarah Jean Smith (sjsmith@thefsi.us) or middle school principal Tony Freeman (tfreeman@thefsi.us). Understand that we are still working through details, and that we also fully recognize that there are many different ways that schools are approaching the challenges and opportunities of the coming year.

We hope you all are finding ways to enjoy summer, and especially this holiday weekend, safely. Be well, and we look forward to a great school year together!

With appreciation and love,

Michelle Vruwink
Executive Director
mvruwink@thefsi.us