



Franklin County District Schools

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Update: March 19, 2020 Important COVID-19 update for parents, students, and staff as of March 19:
As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to develop and spread throughout the country, your Franklin County School Board members and I understand that you may have questions, concerns, and fears about the impact on our school district and you as critical stakeholders in our system. Please rest assured that the School Board and I continue to monitor the situation carefully, and are working collaboratively with local and state government officials. We are committed to doing everything possible to mitigate the impact on the families we serve and the dedicated employees who work diligently to meet the needs of our students every day.

As of yesterday, the Florida Department of Education has said the earliest K-12 students will return back to school would be April 15, 2020. School closures are now in effect for all K-12 schools, the district's VPK, and the Adult Education Program. The extended school closure date will be reevaluated by state officials every two weeks to determine feasibility as the pandemic progresses.

At this point, all statewide assessments have been cancelled this school year. We still await clarification from the state regarding student make-up day requirements, any waived days from our regular calendars, graduation requirements, graduation ceremonies, and other end-of-year activity announcements will be forthcoming as guidance from the state is issued.

Food insecurity is a serious concern in our community, and we are working to ensure that our children will not go hungry while campuses are closed. Our District School Food Nutrition Services Department will provide pack-and-go free meals for students at nine (9) designated sites throughout Franklin County, which can be found on the school district's website, from March 24 - April 15, between the hours of 10:00a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Students will need to be with their parents or guardians who come to pick up the meal items, and we will utilize a drive-through procedure to minimize person-to-person contact.

As originally scheduled, our district offices will remain open for business. However, we ask you to utilize phone or electronic communication as much as possible to ask questions or address concerns. If it becomes necessary, we may restrict access to the buildings in order to keep groups of more than 10 from accumulating in our customer service areas.

District and school based administration have been diligently working this week to finalize and plan so learning can continue now that school closures have been extended. The expectation from our state and district leaders, is that students will continue to progress in their learning during the closure of schools under the consultation and guidance of their teachers and the collaboration of parents/guardians. The district's instructional continuity plan will be shared with students and parents next week and fully implemented 3/30 - 4/15. Parents are asked to look for a brief survey via the Franklin County School District Facebook page regarding student access to technology.

Our district and school leaders have been hoping for the best, but preparing for the worst. We continue to take the necessary steps in preparing to provide our students with continuity of education while also ensuring that they do not go hungry. As with any challenging situation, we thank our parents and community members for their continued patience and understanding as we navigate through these unprecedented times and as information seems to change hour by hour, and day by day. We will continue to monitor the situation carefully and make decisions in the best interest of our students and staff. Stay safe.

DISTRICT 1
GEORGE THOMPSON

DISTRICT 2
PAM MARSHALL
CO-CHAIR

DISTRICT 3
FONDA DAVIS, SR.

DISTRICT 4
STACY KIRVIN
CHAIR

DISTRICT 5
CARL WHALEY

The Franklin
County

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