



December 2, 2020

Dear FSD 145 Staff and Families,

I would like to begin this letter by thanking each one of you for the patience and understanding that you have shown throughout this school year as we continue to navigate decisions that greatly impact our children's education and day to day life. We all can agree on how much we want our students and staff to return to their normal routines in person.

The value that we place on in-person learning must also be weighed with the data from health experts and the recommendations from our local and state governments. While providing services to students with special needs in several school buildings within the time period when FSD was in full virtual learning, we ended up having to halt services for some students due to positive cases and the need to quarantine individuals who have been exposed. As of today, we have twelve staff members who are isolated or quarantined and six (6) more waiting for test results. Taking all of the aspects of this complicated issue into consideration, we have decided to extend Remote Learning for all students of FSD145 until December 18, with a return to in-person learning on Monday, January 4, 2021. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience that this decision may cause families and staff across the district. We understand the disappointment and frustration for many that come with this news.

What to expect for the remainder of the remote learning period:

Student Recognition

To assist with increasing attendance and engagement of all students during remote learning, the district will continue its recognition program for students in each school.

- First, we have encouraged teachers, staff and administrators to send a postcard to all students. Postcards will be mailed during the Winter Holiday Break.
- Secondly, the Equity Department will provide Holiday Bags to random students from each school who have participated for at least 75% of the time during Remote Instruction and completed at least 70% of their work; whether in an asynchronous or synchronous learning environment. The Holiday Bags will be delivered to the selected students' homes during the week of December 14, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, before the holiday break.
- Finally, each school will continue to "virtually" recognize students during remote learning through our PBIS Incentive Program.

Nutrition and Dining Services

Starting this Friday, December 4th, 2020 our Nutrition and Dining Services Department would like to spread a little Holiday Cheer each week of December.

- For this week we will be hosting a holiday coloring contest. All grades are welcome and encouraged to participate and families can even create a masterpiece together.
- Coloring sheets will be passed out at our grab n go sites starting this Friday and included in our Saturday bus deliveries.
- If you would like, your family can even create their own holiday artwork and turn it in.
- All entries must be returned by Friday, December 11th, 2020 to our grab n go locations.
- For our bus delivery families you can return them to our NDS staff on Saturday, December 12th, as we come to your home. All entries will need the students name, school and a contact number.
- All participating students will receive a small gift bag and there will be a grand prize of a Family Game Night Basket.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Nutrition and Dining Services Department at 815-801-0106. Happy coloring :)

Additional Student Tutoring for Grades 7-12

The semester will draw to a close in mid-January (in just 4 more full weeks!). We welcome students in grades 7-12 to take advantage of tutoring opportunities available at FHS and FMS.

FHS--Please note new and expanded times to accommodate more students' work schedules

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Online Learning 10-12:30	Online Learning 10-12:30	Asynchronous Learning	Online Learning 10-12:30	Online Learning 10-12:30
Tutoring 1-3 pm ONLY on Zoom	Tutoring 1-3 pm in person in Library AND on Zoom	Tutoring 1-3 pm in person in Library AND on Zoom	Tutoring 1-3 pm ONLY on Zoom	No tutoring on Friday

In Addition: Athletic and Activities Coaches/Sponsors have also planned optional in person tutoring time for the coming weeks to support a strong finish to the semester. Coaches will communicate those details directly to players/participants.

Buses will pick up at the following locations and times on **Tuesday and Wednesday** :

Cedarville Post Office **12:05** pm pick up **3:57** drop off

Taylor Park School **12:20** pm pick up and **3:42** drop off

MLK Community Building **12:27** pm pick up **3:36** drop off

Monterey and Van Buren St **12:32** pm pick up and **3:30** drop off

Waddell and Westview **12:40** pm pick up and **3:24** drop off

Lincoln Douglas School **12:44** pm pickup and **3:15** drop off

All safety procedures will be observed during in-person tutoring such as temperature checks, social distancing, and masks.

FMS

Monday (Dec 7 & 14)	Tuesday (Dec 8 & 15)	Thursday (Dec 10 & 17)	Friday (Dec 11 & 18)
10:30-12 @ FMS	10:30-12 @ FMS	10:30-12 @ FMS	10:30-12 @ FMS
Any A or B day student may attend in-person tutoring any day during the above times. This is an opportunity for students to receive help with technology, low grades, missing assignments, concept understanding, etc. All safety procedures will be observed during in-person tutoring such as temperature checks, social distancing, and masks. Buses will pick up at the following locations and times : Cedarville Post Office 9:45 am pick up 12:55 drop off Taylor Park School 9:54 am pick up and 12:40 drop off MLK Community Building 10:01 am pick up 12:35 drop off Monterey and Van Buren St 10:06 am pick up and 12:31 drop off Waddell and Westview 10:14 am pick up and 12:25 drop off Lincoln Douglas School 10:19 am pickup and 12:17 drop off Online learning will continue each morning from 7:30-10:08 AM.			

Special Services

As we continue with remote learning the special education staff will provide virtual instruction and services to students with individual education plans. It is important however to maintain the need to reach students who have extreme challenges with the virtual format.

- The teachers and staff have identified students who would continue to benefit from in-person services for part of their school week due to their needs.
- Most special education students identified for in-person services will be in the buildings for a minimum of an hour and no more than a half day to allow for cleaning/sanitizing between students.
- We will continue to provide these special in-person services to students identified supplementing with virtual, phone and email contacts as well.
- Further, the transportation department will keep the arranged transport to and from school in place for these students.

Expanded Remote Schedule for our Youngest Learners

Reminder: The hours during which elementary teachers will be working with students in real time (synchronously) will be expanded from 12:30-4:00. This expanded learning time better meets the needs of our youngest learners. Elementary teachers may also deliver small group lessons in the morning.

Holiday Cheer from our Music Department

Over the next two weeks, the elves in our music department will release student performances to help us all experience a little holiday cheer. We thank our student musicians from across the

District for giving us the gift of music this holiday season! We will share links as soon as they are available.

National Special Education Day - 12/2/2020

Special Education Day was first celebrated in 2005 which was the 30th anniversary of the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**. President Gerald Ford signed the law on November 29, 1975. IDEA made education available to all American children and this day honors the progress that has been made in special education.



We realize that the various plans mentioned above cannot replace in-person learning. We will continue to work on engaging our students and with your help and support we will get through this together. Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions. Our school administrators and school staff will play a crucial role in communicating additional information specific to your child's school. Please feel free to reach out to them as well.

With gratitude,

Dr. Anna Alvarado

Superintendent of Schools

-WEEKLY REMINDERS DURING FULL REMOTE LEARNING-

COVID-19 Positive Cases in FSD

Weekly the District updates staff & student positive cases as reported by the Stephenson County Health Department. [This information is available to view on our website](#) and will be updated on Fridays.

Important Reminder: Internet Sign-Up Deadline

The deadline for families to sign up under our Sponsored Internet Program with Comcast ends on 12/31/2020. After that time, we will not be able to sponsor additional families for 2020-2021 school year.

Freeport School District has partnered with [Comcast to provide Sponsored Internet to families in need](#). Qualifying families can receive a promo code from FSD145 Technology Department that allows them to sign up for Comcast Internet Essentials and have Freeport School District pay for their service. Contact information is provided on the last page.

Chromebooks, Technology Support & Assistance

Chromebooks

If you do not have your student's assigned Chromebook at home, please contact their school and make arrangements to pick it up.

Tech Support

Please reach out to the FSD145 Tech Team at 815-232-0569 if the issue is related to general login, passwords, or non-functional technology.

Common Tech Quick Fixes

Please visit [this LINK](#) to review videos and written instructions for fixing common technical issues from home.

Schoology for Guardians

Access to Schoology for parents was emailed. If you missed the email, you can create an account on your own using the email address you registered your student with. For parents with existing accounts, following the forgot password process described on our website should reset the parent's Schoology password. <https://www.fsd145.org/Page/2116>

Appropriate Use of Technology - Important Reminder

As more students are learning remotely, it is a good time to remind families of the [“Agreement for the Appropriate Use of District Issued Technology Equipment”](#) that was signed by parents and students when Chromebooks were issued. Please keep in mind that district Chromebooks run through the school district's filtering system, regardless if they are on home or community wi-fi. Inappropriate use of a FSD145 district device sends an alert to our tech department and may result in having the device taken away or in a disciplinary action for the student. Please remind your student(s) that they should never search for inappropriate content or in any way use their Chromebook that is not considered appropriate for school.

Reporting Absences

During the remote learning period, if your student is ill, symptomatic, or cannot attend school for any other reason, please notify the school office just as you would if they were attending school in person.

Nutrition and Dining Services / Meal Plan

All District students have the option to pick up meals on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Please see the below chart for locations and pick up times. ***If your family was already enrolled in the Saturday bus delivery program, these deliveries will remain in place for your family.*** Please note that we will no longer be offering a Saturday in person meal pick up at Freeport High School until further notice.

Nutrition and Dining Meal Pick Up Locations and Times:

School Pick-Up Site	Location	Days and Times (Families can select one of the times that work best for them. 2 days of breakfast and lunch will be provided on each pick-up day)
Center Elementary	Center Street Parking Lot, Pick Up at Door I	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM
Carl Sandburg	Lower Level Parking Lot, Pick Up at Door O	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM
Freeport High School	Empire Street Entrance, Pick Up at Door O	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM
Taylor Park	School Parking Lot	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Wednesday, December 9 - 3-hour School Improvement Day (all students will attend remotely).
- Winter Break - December 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021. Students will return to school on Monday, January 4, 2021.

Feedback & Questions

If you have missed our weekly communications to families, you can read them here. [**Weekly & Special Community Communications**](#). Please call your student(s)'s schools with any questions or co