



FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE • INNOVATION • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY

Joel Jocelyn, Ed.D.
Principal

January 29, 2021

Dear Franklin Families,

Wrapping up the month of January reminds me how far we have come with the many changes the pandemic has wrought on our educational system. Our staff has been professional and flexible in the face of challenging times. Our students have adapted well, and we thank you for your continued support. Life continues to go on at Franklin, and our students are learning. The additional times of live interactions with teachers and staff are working out well for our students. Our Responsive School Team and other staff members have adopted some of the bulletin boards to add some cheers to our hallways by showcasing student work, art, and other decorations. Some of the classrooms have also received some tender loving care from our staff. While we are two weeks away from February vacation, our focus continues to be on instruction while prioritizing our students' safety and well-being.

Some Important School Related Updates

1. *Valentine's Day* - Valentine's day is a tradition that many children and adults in our school community enjoy. This year we plan to maintain this tradition while adhering to social distancing and sanitizing guidelines. After consulting with Newton HHS and Nurse Julia, we have received clearance for classrooms to host Valentine's Day celebrations with the following guidance. Students may exchange Valentine's Day cards as long as they do not require being sealed. Students should bring their own bags to collect their Valentine's Day cards. Exchanges of Valentine's Day cards will be limited to students in the same cohorts. Because Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday, it becomes logistically challenging for students of different cohorts to exchange cards. Teachers who host Valentine's day celebrations in their classrooms will continue to adhere to social distancing, hygiene, and sanitizing guidelines.
2. *Newton BINAXNow Antigen Test Initiative* - Nurse Julia has been involved in ongoing training and discussion regarding the implementation of the BINAXNow Antigen testing. She will administer this testing only to students who become symptomatic while in school and whose families have opted in via the sign-up link provided by NPS. Nurse Julia will still reach out to families if a child is symptomatic at school. Please continue to keep your



FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE • INNOVATION • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY

Joel Jocelyn, Ed.D.
Principal

children at home should they exhibit symptoms. Kudos to our Franklin families for your continued adherence to guidelines.

3. *Rapid Test Consent Form Questions* - We know there are many questions from families coming in, and there is some confusion about the registration and consent process. NPS is compiling instructions and a short FAQ that will be emailed to families as soon as possible. If you get questions, please tell them that more information is coming. If you would like, ask them to send questions to the following email: community@newton.k12.ma.us.
4. *Upcoming District Information Next Week* – Our administrative assistant Michael Farrell will email all families (DLA and Hybrid) on Monday and Tuesday two documents that may pertain to only a subsection of our families. The first document describes the out-of-assigned district placement for 2021-2022. The second one provides information about our upcoming Kindergarten 2021-2022 registration information via Zoom on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Please keep an eye out for these two documents if they would pertain to your family.
5. *Progress Report* – Please find below some information related to progress reports this year:

The February 2021 Progress Report maintains expectations from previous years for each grade level with consistent benchmarks defining “proficiency.” The **progress report measures performance against priority standards** for each grade level. As we assess students’ current performance and plan instruction, our goal is for students to grow in reference to these benchmarks.

Our instructional priority is on safety and well-being, as we believe this is the first step toward helping all students reach academic goals. We recognize that not as many students are reaching these expectations due to the school closure and reduced instructional time.

This looks different for each child as they have been impacted in individual ways. With educators and families across the country, we recognize that the pandemic has had a significant impact on students’ learning, and we anticipate that there will be more “2’s” this year than in previous years.



FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE • INNOVATION • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY

Joel Jocelyn, Ed.D.
Principal

“N/A” will be used to indicate standards that have either not yet been a focus of instruction or areas where we do not have sufficient data to report for an individual child due to attendance limitations. Our professional team is committed to understanding the gaps that exist in children’s learning and working creatively to help students grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

We are grateful to our families for your partnership with us in supporting your children’s growth during this unusual year. By assisting them with learning at home and providing us with helpful feedback, you have been strong collaborators during this time of crisis.

We intend that this progress report will be a useful tool for the conversations you will have with your child’s teacher as we transition into the second half of this school year. The spring conference season in early April will be another opportunity for families and teachers to communicate about students’ progress. Please reach out to your child’s teacher with concerns or questions.

Thank you for trusting us with the education of your children in these very challenging times. Please feel free to contact our school at your convenience with any questions about any of the items listed above or if you need to discuss any issues related to your child’s progress in school.

Sincerely,

Joel Jocelyn