

Farmingdale Public School

49 Academy Street

Farmingdale, NJ 07727

www.farmingdaleschool.com 732-938-9611

Sept. 1, 2020

Dear Farmingdale Students and Families,

I hope this letter finds you relaxed, renewed, and ready for the 2020-21 school year. Our staff has been working tirelessly to get ready for the start of school and we are excited to welcome back all of our Farmingdale students and families on **Tuesday, September 8th**. I would like to begin this letter by welcoming some new staff members to our Farmingdale Family:

Mr. John Bonito - 3rd Grade
Ms. Therese Bove - Leave Replacement Teacher
Ms. Robyn Capalbo - Educational Assistant
Ms. Jaclyn Gass - Kindergarten
Ms. Lorraine McDonnell - Leave Replacement Teacher
Ms. Christine McLeod - Educational Assistant
Ms. Sara Meringer - Leave Replacement Teacher
Ms. Angelic Sexton - Educational Assistant
Ms. Tiana Zerilli - Music

Important Parent Information

As you are aware, this year is going to look a little different than years past. I would like to take this time to outline some of the changes that have been put in place:

1. Mask-Wearing Mandate for School

As per Governor Murphy's mandate, all students and staff are required to wear a mask while at school, unless doing so would impede their health. Please consider packing an extra mask for your child/children to use in case the one worn to school gets dirty or breaks. In addition, as recommended in the recent CDC guidance, gaiters and masks with a respirator are not advised. The best mask is one that fits firmly around your child's mouth and nose. If you are having trouble finding one that fits, please reach out to Mrs. Kokolus, our school nurse, for assistance. In addition, please remind your child/children to wear his/her mask and remain socially distant from others when walking to/from school.

2. Health Screening Agreement/Temperature Taking

All parents will be asked to self-screen their child/children for signs of COVID-19 before entering the building. Please review the attached form and adhere to the [Parent Symptom-Free COVID-19 Agreement](#). In addition, we will be temperature screening students with a contactless thermometer each morning upon arrival. Any student exhibiting a fever (100.4 or above) or signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated and the school nurse will be in contact with the families for further guidance.

3. Contact Tracing

In the event of an exposure, the district will be in contact with the Monmouth County Department of Health to assist in contact tracing. They have asked us to pass along the importance of taking their call and cooperating with them to trace any known contacts. They assure parents that it is not their intent to penalize families, but rather to use this information to help mitigate the spread of the virus.

4. Emergency Contact Updates

Our One Call Now notification system enables us to provide you with school information using email, text message, or telephone instead of paper copies. The notification will include school closing and late start or early dismissal information during inclement weather. Please provide the district with the following: cell phone numbers, work numbers, email address, and other contact information so the system can keep you well-informed.

In addition, please update emergency forms that you receive at the beginning of the year with the BEST numbers to reach you or an emergency contact of your choosing, in the event your child will need to be picked up from school. It is expected that a parent/guardian or emergency contact will pick up an ill student within 30 minutes of contact.

5. Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

Your child's safety is our number one priority. In order to ensure a safe and effective arrival and dismissal each day, please review the following procedures:

Driving, dropping off, and picking up students:

- Drive cautiously and with patience.
- **All students** are expected to exit the car **only** in the "Kiss and Ride" section in our back parking lot area. Please be mindful of others behind and in front of you and quickly drop off your child. Have your child(ren) exit the car on the curb side only. If you wish to walk your children to the door each day, you are welcome to park in the parking lot assigned for visitors. Please do **NOT** drop your students off in front of the school or in any other area.
- In an effort to ensure the safety of both students and guardians, the State Police will be on hand to monitor area traffic in the Borough of Farmingdale as students arrive to and from school. Please be mindful of speed limits.
- When you pick up your K-5 grade student at the end of the day, you are required to park, get out of your car and meet your student at the area designated by his/her teacher.
- **In addition, all K-5 parents will be required to complete a Farmingdale Dismissal Procedures Form indicating whether their child can walk home unescorted or will be picked up each day.** This form will be due back immediately. Please adhere to these rules as they ensure student safety in our parking lot at dismissal.
- **Helmets:** All students in 3rd grade and up who choose to ride their bike, skateboard, or rollerblade to school must wear a helmet. Bikers must secure their bike with a lock. Bike racks are available. Also, a permission form must be filled out and returned to the main office.

In order to best socially distance all students, arrival and dismissal will occur at different entrances/exits throughout the building. Staff will be available to assist students and parents at all times. We ask that parents partner with us and adhere to our safety protocols by wearing a mask and remaining socially distant while dropping off and waiting for their child to dismiss from school. In addition, the playground will be closed during school hours (8:25am-3:15pm) until further notice.

Please see the table below for your child's grade and entrance/exit door:

| Grades | Entrance | Exit |
|-------------|---|--|
| PreK, K & 1 | Their classroom doors | Same classroom doors |
| 2 | Library door | At the curb in front of the main office Parents are required to park their cars and walk to the curb to pick up their child from the teacher. |
| 3 & 4 | Blue gym door | Blue gym door Parents are required to park their cars and walk to the curb to pick up their child from the teacher. |
| 5 | Breezeway doors (old entrance- made of glass) | Front office door Parents are required to park their cars and walk to the curb to pick up their child from the teacher. |
| 6 | Breezeway doors | Middle school door (facing Academy Street) |
| 7 & 8 | Middle School door | Middle school door (facing Academy Street) |

6. At Home Technology Request

All students in grades K-8 will be required to log into synchronous learning opportunities in the afternoon. If your child needs to borrow an iPad (K-1) or a chromebook (2-8) to utilize in the afternoons, please complete this form below.

<https://forms.gle/AtoT8ur2s6j4na7e9>

Students will be required to travel back and forth to school with their device each day as they will also utilize the device in the classroom.

Our student/parent handbook will be provided to students on the first day of school. Please review this handbook carefully with your student(s) and promptly sign and return the form that acknowledges that you reviewed it.

Please take the time to view our school website: www.farmingdaleschool.com , our Twitter page @FSDVikings, and our Facebook page @FarmingdaleSchool. Our goal is to provide you with information that you can access at all times. Please feel free to let us know if there are additional items that you would like to see added to the website or events and/or activities you would like us to share via social media.

Farmingdale School District is fortunate to have an active Parent/Teacher Association that works with our staff to ensure that all students are provided with valuable learning opportunities as well as resources. Please help support our school by joining the PTA. Information will be sent home on how to join.

As we continue in our Arts Integration journey, this year's school theme is fittingly **"Farmingdale ♥ Hearts ♥ the Arts"**. We are excited to continue this journey as we grow and enhance the work we are doing to integrate arts with a variety of content areas. We are committed to ensuring that ALL of our students have access to the arts. We strongly believe that Arts Education is an essential part of a well-rounded education. Please partner with us as we create, develop, and expand these opportunities.

Your continued feedback is appreciated as we embark on this endeavor, and continue to honor students' interests, curiosities and opinions, provide active exploration, and present student-centered learning experiences.

This school year will look substantially different than previous years. While many of our students will receive four hours of in-person instruction per day, with the afternoon session being remote, some of our learners will have an exclusive remote learning experience. Our staff has been engaging in Professional Development over the summer and will continue receiving training and workshops during the first two weeks of school. This work will enable us to provide a strong, comprehensive hybrid and/or remote learning experience to each of our students. We need your support and feedback as we engage in this work. We need to know what is working and what isn't so that we can adjust our practices to suit student and family needs.

There are three ways for you to provide your feedback.

1. Reach out to your child's teacher via email or phone at any time.
2. Reach out to Mrs. Conroy at edith.conroy@farmingdaleschool.com or 732-938-9611
3. Contact Mrs. Conroy anonymously using the Google Form linked [here](#) and also on our website at any time.

We are looking forward to an amazing year filled with educational opportunities and adventures!

Please save the date for our Back-To-School Night on Thursday, September 17th.

In education,
Mrs. Edith Conroy