



FARMINGDALE



S THE Arts



Farmingdale Public School

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Farmingdale, NJ 07727

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Sept. 1, 2020

Dear Parents of our Remote Learners,

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

Please know we are here to provide support for your student(s) and family throughout your remote learning experience. Our remote learning model for the 20-21 school year will look extremely different than what it looked like last spring. Educators have learned a lot from that experience and synchronized (live) learning/teaching has quickly become a best practice in education.

At-Home Technology Request

Our goal this fall is to have your student participate remotely by attending school virtually along with his/her peers who are in school. At various times throughout the day, all students in grades K-8 will be required to log into synchronous (live) learning opportunities. If your child needs to borrow an iPad (K-1) or a Chromebook (2-8), please complete this form below:

<https://forms.gle/AtoT8ur2s6j4na7e9>

Remote Learning Model

Here are some highlights of our remote learning model:

- School starts for remote students on Tuesday, September 8th, at approximately 8:40am.
- Students will be required to log into Zoom (links will be provided by the teacher) and follow along with the lesson and activities for each of their classes.
- School district attendance procedures apply to all remote students. If your child will be absent, please remember to call or email janet.farrell@farmingdaleschool.com prior to the start of the school day stating your child's name, grade and reason for the absence.
- Your student's schedule will be full each morning with remote classes, and then there will be a break for lunch.
- From 1:15-3:15 in the afternoon, students will resume live, synchronous classes. Afternoon sessions will be utilized for a variety of classes: core academic subjects (depending on grade level), related arts classes, and small group instruction based on student needs.
- Your student may have breaks in the afternoon depending on his/her individual schedule.
- Your child's teacher will connect with you by September 4th via phone or email and provide your child's schedule via Google Classroom or email.
- Teachers will post and share their Zoom or Google Meet links with students by Friday, September 4th.
- All students (remote and in-person) are required to attend afternoon synchronous classes.
- Teachers are required to contact the families of any students who have not attended to find out why they were unable to attend. If there is a childcare reason that prevents the student from attending live sessions, parents are required to submit an email or letter to the teacher and principal to document why their student cannot attend. Once a documented reason is received by the district, the teacher(s) will work with the family to provide asynchronous learning opportunities for the identified students.
- Asynchronous Learning can be provided after parent documentation is received. This format does not require students and teacher to be present online at the same time. Some examples:
 - Self-paced online courses with intermittent teacher instruction
 - Taped Zoom Lessons that were previously provided to the rest of the class
 - Pre-assigned work with formative assessment on paper or in a learning management system such as Google Classroom or Seesaw
 - Pre-recorded videos of instruction
 - Practice and assessment in educational software programs

- We are committed to providing the learning/instructional materials needed for students to be successful at home. Therefore, visits to our school may be necessary from time to time. Our main office is happy to assist with getting materials to remote learning families. Parents can pick up materials from the vestibule. Materials pick up will be coordinated between the teacher and families prior to the scheduled pick up. **Please be sure to have an appointment and wear a mask when visiting the school.**
- Students will be expected to follow video-conferencing etiquette and classwide norms and expectations.
- Teachers will be expected to provide specific student feedback and maintain communication with parents/guardians about student progress.
- Related Arts Teachers will be required to utilize the same platform the grade level teacher is utilizing (Google Classroom/Seesaw) in an effort to streamline information and assignments for both parents and students.
- Academic support will be provided to students through small group and/or individual meetings during the afternoon session.

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.*

Theme

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.

PTA

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.

Communication

Start of year paperwork and the student/parent handbook will soon be available for pickup. 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.

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 meet 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.
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.

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