The Road Forward Updates
Dr. Joseph Meloche & Dr. Kwame Morton
August 10, 2021
The Road Forward – District Mission Statement

**WE** shall provide all children with an education that develops open-minded thinkers with the strong academic and interpersonal skills to thrive in an ever-changing world and make it a better place for all.
Building upon our strong foundations of academic excellence, inclusion, voice, and cultural proficiency, we will:

**Student Wellness**
Create frameworks of learning and supports for all students to develop the skills needed for social and emotional wellness.

**Purpose & Passion**
Develop highly engaging learner-centered experiences within an environment that promotes voice, choice, and passion for learning.

**Connecting Beyond Our Classrooms**
Provide resources, opportunities, and experiences for our students to connect to the world beyond their classrooms and to become informed and empathetic agents of change in the world.
Preparing for the Reopening of Schools on September 9, 2021

“Yay for Full Day!”

Only 30 days until the school year begins!
The District is committed to the following -

- The health & safety of students and staff members.
- Regularly scheduled school days for all students.
- Breakfast and Lunch being available and scheduled for students.
- Working in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey Department of Health, and the Camden County Department of Health to remain informed about the status of community health.
- Communicating information transparently with the students, families, staff members, and community.
What we know, as of August 10, 2021 Regarding Masks

- Governor Murphy announced on Friday, August 6, 2021 that masks will be required in schools for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.
  - “The Governor signed Executive Order (EO) 251, which will mandate masking in the indoor premises of all public, private, and parochial preschool, elementary, and secondary school buildings, with limited exceptions. The EO is effective on Monday, August 9, 2021.”
  - The announcement was endorsed by -
    - NJ Health Commissioner, Judith Persichilli
    - Acting Commissioner of Education, Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan
    - President of the NJ Chapter of AAP, Dr. Jeanne Craft
    - President of the NJASA, Dr. Janet Fike
    - President of the NJ School Nurses Association, Donna Pleus
    - President of NJEA, Marie Blistan
    - Executive Director of the NJSBA, Dr. Lawrence Feinsod
    - President of the NJ PTA, Candy Fredericks
Masks

- By any adult in the building
  - At all times, unless they are in a room by themselves
- By students
  - All times
  - On buses
  - In the hallway
  - In the cafeteria/APR (once seated and physically eating mask will be removed)
  - Going to, and in, the restroom
  - In classrooms
- Masks should be washed every day of use and/or before being used again, or if visibly soiled or damp/wet.
- Disposable masks will be available if needed.
- Any visitor in the building must wear a mask.
  - During the academic day visitors will be screened, including a temperature check, upon arrival and before admittance to the school building
WE Return to Learn - The Road Forward 2021-2022

- **A Focus on Students’ and Staff Social & Emotional Wellness and Mental Health**
  - Transitioning back to full time, in person instruction on September 9, 2021
  - Inservice days prior to school reopening will include preparation to meet the social and emotional challenges of the transition for students and staff.
  - Focused training throughout the year by Thrive Alliance for counseling staff.

- **Curriculum & Instruction**
  - Preparing for the academic needs of the students, based on last year’s experience and this year’s expectations

- **Planning the Instructional Day**
  - Including breakfast and lunch times
  - Classroom setup & movement within the building

- **Remote Accessibility and Technology**
  - The district will continue to ensure that the digital divide is closed and all students and staff have access to the technology necessary to be successful including:
    - All students have access to devices & internet connectivity they can take home.
    - Technology support and troubleshooting via online platform, remote access calls, email, and video conference
Breakfast will be served at school, every day!

- All students are eligible to receive meals free of charge, every day
- Student arrival time will impact where the meal is consumed
  - Eating in the classroom, “after the bell,” will be an option
- All students will have access to grab & go, pre-filled brown bag meals
- Meal calendars will be posted on the district website

Building specific details about meal distribution will be shared by principals along with opening of school information.

All families are asked to complete the “Free/Reduced Meal Application” - even if you do not believe you are eligible

- The form will be accessible as part of the opening of school paperwork
**WE Return to Learn - The Road Forward 2021-2022**

- Lunch will be served at school, every day!
  - Meal calendars will be posted on the [district website](#)

  ○ Lunch
    - Elementary Schools
      - Lunch times are being adjusted at all 12 elementary schools, based on APR space and number of students
      - Seating arrangements will be established at cafeteria tables
      - Outdoor eating will be an option, depending upon the weather

    - Middle Schools
      - Lunch times will follow a traditional schedule
      - Meal distribution areas will be set for students to pick up
      - There may be outside seating options, depending upon the weather - still being worked on at this time

    - High Schools
      - Lunches will be served during LB1 & LB2 - times will not change
      - Multiple areas for meal distribution & eating have been identified at each school
      - Outdoor eating will be an option, depending upon the weather
WE Return to Learn - The Road Forward 2021-2022

The Road Forward Committee Update

● August 9th Meeting
● Committee Composition
● District Commitments
● Continuity of Learning Plan Dissection & Review
● Recommendations
● Next Steps

● Meetings dates: July 26th, August 9th, August 19th, September 1st
● Building based Pandemic Response Teams will reconvene in August 2021.
● Students will continue to participate in the Pandemic Response Teams.
Formal presentations are scheduled for the Board of Education Meetings on:

- August 10, 2021
- August 24, 2021
- September 14, 2021

The Safe Return Plan is posted on the school district website which is ADA compliant and accessible. The translation feature of the page allows for the information to be translated into many different languages. If there is a specific language need beyond what is currently available, translation services will be provided upon request.
Questions
Feedback
Discussion