



49 Academy Street
Farmingdale, New Jersey 07727
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August 26, 2021

Dear Farmingdale Students and Families,

I hope you have been able to soak up the summer and that this letter finds you relaxed, renewed, and ready for the 2021-22 school year. We have been working hard 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 7th**. Please meet on the Academy Street side near the flagpole at 8:35 am and have students line up with their class, weather permitting. Our staff will be waiting for you. Parents are welcome to stay for our opening exercises, which should last about 10 minutes. In case of rain, students will meet in the gymnasium. We have a **shortened day on Tuesday, September 7th** with dismissal at 12:45 pm. Please have your student(s) bring a healthy snack. Our first full day of school will be Wednesday, September 8th, with dismissal at 3:15 pm.

Please join me in welcoming the new staff members below to our Farmingdale Family:

Ms. Sophia Bedore - 3rd Grade Teacher
Ms. Tyler Frattellone - Educational Assistant
Mrs. Kathleen Governale - School Secretary
Ms. Irene LiPani - Pre-K Educational Assistant
Ms. Gabriela Rodrigues -Math and Enrichment teacher
Mrs. Mary Ann St. Jacques - Art Teacher
Mrs. Catherine Tsintolas - Educational Assistant

Important Parent Information

As you are aware, this year is going to continue to look a little different than years past. I would like to take this time to outline our expectations:

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. 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. If you have any additional questions regarding the mask requirement, your answers may be found [here](#).

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](#). Our staff will continue to monitor all students throughout the school day and look for signs and/or symptoms of illness, however we will not be taking student temperatures upon arrival. Any student exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated and evaluated by the school nurse and she will be in contact with families if the student needs to be picked up. It is expected that the student will be picked up within 30 minutes of notification. It is important that your emergency contact information is current in the event you cannot be reached.

3. Contact Tracing

The New Jersey Department of Health recently revised its guidance regarding contact tracing as it pertains to schools. As you may recall, a close contact is defined as an individual who is within six feet of another individual who tested positive for COVID-19 for a cumulative fifteen minutes over a 24 hour period. The new exception for the school setting is as follows (8/2021):

“In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time”. Three-foot social distancing will help significantly reduce the number of potentially quarantined students within the classroom setting. Students will be returning to the cafeteria to eat lunch this year. Though they will be three feet apart, they will be removing their masks to eat. We will be cohorting students by assigning seats and keeping seating charts to reduce the amount of students who may need to quarantine due to the fact that students will not be masked during lunch.

- If a student is required to quarantine for a possible exposure, we will do our best to accommodate him/her remotely as quickly as possible. Mrs. Kokolus will be directing the quarantine/remote timeframe under the CDC guidance provided to districts. Preschool to 4th grade teachers will be provided 24 hours to get remote materials to the parent upon notification of the need to quarantine. Grades 5-8 students will be able to login remotely the next available school day. **The remote option for students is only able to be provided in the case of an exposure quarantine or isolation related to COVID-19.** All other illnesses or vacations will be considered absences and work will be expected to be made up upon returning to school.
- No change to the guidance regarding resuming field trips has been shared, therefore, all field trips remain on hold. We will continue to monitor and let you know as soon as any is provided to us.

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 ONLY.** 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. If your child is expected to be picked up by a person not on your form on a given day, please call the main office as soon as possible to notify us and then email our school secretary, Mrs. Governale, at kathleen.governale@farmingdaleschool.com so the request is in writing.

- **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.
- No changes have been made to the bell schedule for the 2021-22 school year. Students need to arrive prior to 8:35 or they will be considered late. Doors open for arrival at 8:25 am.

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. In addition, the playground will be closed during school hours (8:25am-3:15pm).

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

Grades	Entrance	Exit
PreK & K	Their classroom doors	Same classroom doors
Grades 1-5	Blue gym door	1st Grade = 1st Grade side door 2nd Grade = Library door 3rd Grade = Breezeway door 4th Grade = Blue gym door 5th Grade = Blue gym door
Grades 6-8	Blue gym door	Middle School Door/Academy Street Side

6. At Home Technology Request

All students in grades 2-8 will be allowed to use a district device at home for homework ONLY if needed. If your child needs to borrow a chromebook (2-8) to utilize for homework ONLY, please complete this form below.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18dsUhsY5brfP52odHVo-qpeEvy7kBePjXHFkSkNgUmE/edit>

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

If your child is required to quarantine and he/she needs a device to use at home, please utilize this form and contact your child's teacher for pick up arrangements.

7. Visiting the School

Please welcome Mrs. Governale, our new front-desk school secretary. When visiting our school, please call ahead to notify us that you will be stopping by, and remember to state your name, your child's name, and present ID after ringing the doorbell in order to gain access to the building. A mask is required. A bin will be provided for easy drop-off of items.

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 at 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 exploring gardening, this year's school theme is fittingly **"Farmingdale School: Where our Young Scholars Blossom and Grow!"**. We are excited to continue this journey as we grow and enhance the work we are doing. We feel so fortunate to be able to provide these opportunities to our students. Please partner with us as we create, develop, and expand these opportunities.

Your continued feedback is appreciated as we continue to educate during the pandemic and honor students' interests, curiosities and opinions, provide active exploration, and present student-centered learning experiences. You are welcome to email your child's teacher or myself at any time.

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

In education,
Mrs. Edith Conroy