



September 8, 2020

Dear Elementary Families,

We are excited to begin the school year and welcome back our students both in-person and remotely! We wanted to provide you with some important information and reminders to make the start of the year successful for all. To start, please make sure you have your Schoology account established and ready to go. Students will need to log in as themselves to access teacher pages and content on remote learning days.

- As per NYS regulations, student attendance will be taken each day. In-person attendance will be taken as usual. For those learning remotely on any given day, attendance will be marked based on presence on synchronous Google Meets or daily logging into Schoology to complete school work and watch recorded lessons prior to midnight each day.
- **Students at home for remote learning on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and/or Friday (from cohorts A, B and C) are expected to be prepared to participate and interact online with their teacher and classmates during the following times:**
 - **KG, 1st and 2nd: 9:45am to 11:30am**
 - **3rd and 4th: 12:45pm to 2:45pm**
- During the times listed above, students will be participating in a combination of both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Although the expectation is to participate live during the above times, students who cannot do so due to unique family schedules, should communicate this information to their teacher; live portions will be recorded for those families who must view later that day on Schoology.
- On Wednesdays, all students will be learning remotely and asynchronously. Cohorts A and B will access specials via teacher Schoology pages and will be assigned asynchronous activities for the day. Cohort C students will have synchronous special area classes as follows:
 - Synchronous Remote Art
 - K-2nd: 9:00am; 3rd and 4th: 9:30am
 - Synchronous Remote Music
 - K-2nd: 10:00am; 3rd and 4th: 10:30am
 - Synchronous Remote PE
 - K-2nd: 11:00am; 3rd and 4th: 11:30am

- Students are expected to sign into Schoology each day to access asynchronous instruction and updated announcements from their teachers.
- All teachers will be working as collaborative teams to ensure consistency and the highest quality of instruction. Thus, your student may at times view a recorded instructional video that is prepared by a FM faculty member different from your child's teacher.
- **Student arrival times:**
 - Walkers and car drop off- anytime between 9:00am and 9:30am
 - Bus drop -off- staggered between 9:00am and 9:45am
 - K-4 students being dropped off will follow the route at the front bus circle. Students should exit their vehicle once the car reaches the green cone zone. Parents may not park in the fire lane and are not able to pass another vehicle.
- **Student dismissal times:**
 - Walkers: 2:45pm
 - Car Pick-Up (**cars must have the QR specific student sign in their passenger window**):
 - A Days- Student Last Name A-D: 2:45pm-3:00pm
 - Student Last Name E-K: 3:00pm- 3:15pm
 - B Days- Student Last Name L-R: 2:45pm- 3:00pm
 - Student Last Name S-Z: 3:00pm- 3:15pm
 - By Bus: Staggered dismissal between 3:25pm and 3:45pm
- Technology devices are being delivered this week to cohort C students who requested a device. Any student in Cohort C who needs a device and did not request one should contact the FM helpdesk at 315-692-1111 or helpdesk@fmschools.org Cohorts A and B will receive their devices on the first in-person day.
- Safety Reminders: Students must wear a mask in school and on the bus and maintain social distancing; thoughtful mask breaks will be offered throughout the day. Frequent hand-washing will take place and student temperatures will be taken upon student arrival.
- If a student has a fever of 100 degrees or higher or demonstrates any symptoms of COVID while in school, parents/guardians will be contacted and must come pick-up their child in a timely manner.

SOME HELPFUL REMOTE LEARNING TIPS

The guidance below can help us all make the best of new and unfamiliar remote learning environments. It can help you be ready for some of the more practical aspects of learning from home.

1. Establish routines and expectations

It is important to develop good habits from the start. Help students get up, get dressed, and ready to learn before the start of class time. Set routines that help foster focus and routines. Keep normal bedtime routines, including normal rules for digital devices.

2. Choose a good place to learn

Your family's regular learning space for occasional homework might not work for extended periods. Set up a physical location that's dedicated to school-focused activities. Make sure it is quiet, free from distractions, and has a good internet connection. Keep doors open, and practice good digital safety. Our teachers, administrators, and staff teams will do the same.

3. Stay in touch

Teachers will mainly be communicating regularly through Schoology. Check in regularly with your child to make sure he/she understands how to access Schoology and assignments. Students will need to join class Google Meets regularly. Stay in contact with classroom teachers but understand it may take a day or two for us to respond. If you have concerns, let someone know.

4. Help students 'own' their learning

No one expects parents to be full-time teachers or to be educational and content matter experts. Provide support and encouragement, and expect your children to do their part. Struggling is allowed and encouraged! Don't help too much. Becoming independent takes a lot of practice.

5. Begin and end the day by checking-in

In the morning, you might ask:

- What resources do you need?
- What can I do to help?

At the end of the day you might ask:

- How far did you get in your learning tasks today?
- What did you discover? What was hard?
- What could we do to make tomorrow better?

These brief conversations matter. Checking in with your children helps them to process instructions they received from their teachers, and it helps them organize themselves and set priorities. Not all students thrive in remote learning; some struggle with too much independence or lack of structure. These check-in routines can help avoid later challenges and disappointments. They help students develop self-management and executive functioning that are essential skills for life. Parents are great life coaches!

Know that we are all in this together. Encourage your child to seek assistance. Teachers have office hours every Wednesday to provide individual and small group assistance (9:30am-10:00am and 2:50pm to 3:30pm). A parent or student simply needs to contact his/her teacher and the teacher will set up a Google Meet or email exchange to provide the support your child needs.

Your patience and flexibility are appreciated as we work together as one school community to make this the best year possible for our students!