

# FRANKLIN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District 84, Cook County

2915 Maple Street  
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131  
(847) 455-4230  
FAX (847) 455-9094  
www.d84.org

Dr. David H. Katzin, Superintendent

The mission of Franklin Park School District 84 is to provide all our children a quality education within a safe and nurturing environment that motivates them to be lifelong learners and morally responsible citizens.



April 20, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, and Members of the District 84 Community,

Well, here we are. On Friday afternoon, Governor Pritzker took action to extend the mandatory closure for the remainder of the school year. Despite the fact that we suspected this was coming - and that we fully acknowledge it being in the best interest of public safety - it nonetheless still stings. We miss our students. Like everyone else, we miss things being “normal.”

Even though our school buildings will remain physically closed, our instructional program will continue through a remote learning format until the last day of the school term, which is May 22nd. I assure you that our entire staff remains committed to providing meaningful instruction and engaging with all of our students through remote learning, as well as maintaining our food distribution program. Breakfast and lunch will continue to be served daily out of Pietrini Elementary, Hester Junior High, and East Leyden High School.

Along with the acute sense of sadness that accompanies an announcement like this, it is also certain to raise a variety of questions. I will do my best to answer some of them now and will follow-up with more information and specificity as our plans are refined.

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## **How will my child be graded? Will he/she move on to the next grade level?**

The primary function of grading is to provide students with feedback on their learning. We recognize that our students and families are being impacted by the current crisis in many ways, and we are committed to the recommendation of the Illinois State Board of Education that no educational harm should come to any student as a result of this pandemic. The primary expectation of our remote learning program is student engagement, and we are focused upon maintaining continuity of learning in order to avoid any major gaps in our students’ academic progress. As such, we will only issue final grades of “Pass” or “Incomplete,” and expect that all students will matriculate to the next grade in the fall.

## **What about all of my child’s personal items that were left behind at school?**

We recognize that our students have items that were left behind in their desks and/or lockers. Please do not worry. Over the next few weeks, we will begin to bag these items and develop a system through which they can be retrieved. For any pressing needs for a particular item, please email your school’s principal directly.

North Elementary  
Cody Huisman, Principal  
9500 Gage St.  
Phone (847) 678-7962  
Fax (847) 678-3616

Passow Elementary  
Judy Martin, Principal  
2838 Calwagner St.  
Phone: (847) 455-6781  
Fax (847) 455-1465

Pietrini Elementary  
Melissa Llano, Principal  
9750 Fullerton Ave.  
Phone (847) 455-7960  
Fax (847) 455-1809

Hester Jr. High  
Giffen Trotter, Principal  
2836 Gustav St.  
Phone (847) 455-2150  
Fax (847) 455-0945

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## **How will the district handle end-of-year traditions and rites of passage (i.e. 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, awards assemblies, etc.)?**

This is not an easy question to answer at this point. We know that relationships are the backbone of effective teaching and learning and take great pride in our focus on the “whole child,” so it truly hurts to know that some of our most special traditions will not be the same this year. The extended school closure has caused us to change a great deal of what we do and we are working hard to “get it right.” Opinions will vary regarding the decisions we ultimately make and it will be difficult, if not impossible, to have full agreement from everyone. Final decisions have not been made on specific activities to date, but it is important to us that you know we are working on it. These traditions and rites of passage are meaningful, and we will do our best under the circumstances to provide some form of recognition for our student groups that highlights just how special they are to us.

## **What about the next school year? Will we be back?**

This is another tough question. At this point, I can tell you that we are planning to resume in-person instruction for the start of the 2020-2021 school term. This could change, of course, depending upon the ability of our state and nation to continue to “bend the curve,” but we are nonetheless planning for a return to normalcy. A committee of teachers and administrators is being convened to identify ways in which we can leverage our resources to not only provide students with a smooth transition back to “regular” school, but also to provide them with additional services and learning opportunities to minimize or eradicate the long-term educational impact of the pandemic. Please be assured that we will provide you with updates as they come available regarding the registration and residency verification processes, our transition efforts and, if there are any changes, the status of the opening of our buildings for the 2020-2021 school term.

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I know this is not the school year that any of us imagined, but I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we have dealt with this unprecedented situation together. This period of remote learning offers us new ways to learn and grow, and out of this pandemic, I truly believe that we will emerge stronger. Take care and be well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Katzin".

David Katzin  
Superintendent

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