



*From the Desk of Janice Tierney
January 22, 2021*

“One little word can light up someone’s day.”

Today, I had the privilege of participating in our second general PTO meeting of the 2020-2021 school year. With approximately 50 families in attendance, I shared the results of the December family survey regarding digital learning experiences of our families as well as the academic performance data from September through December, 2020. I am extremely proud to report that feedback from our Franklin families reflects a positive experience with our current instructional model supporting the academic growth of 89.5% of our students. Please be assured that we continue to strive to grow and improve our practice as well as address the diverse needs of our learners to support academic, social and emotional success for all.

CHILLY DAYS AHEAD

Next week temperatures are predicted to drop. In our quest to continue to provide mask breaks and the opportunity for our students to have a drink/snack, we plan to maintain our snack schedule with a brisk, brief walk. PLEASE be sure that your child is dressed appropriately. We anticipate remaining outside for 5 to 10 minutes.

CHROMEBOOKS

Every student at Franklin has been issued a district device. These devices fall under the “Acceptable Use” policy of the district. We have discovered that some of our students are having difficulty respecting the guidelines and also engaging in non-instructional activities/viewing during instructional time. We addressed this concern during morning announcements today. Students have been informed that if they engage in inappropriate use of their device – whether at school or at home - they will lose the privilege of use and return to paper and pencil. Teachers will also check students' use history regularly. We appreciate your support in not only monitoring activity but also communicating expectations of appropriate use to your child.

ATTENDANCE & REPORTING

As you are aware I have communicated, in our last two Principal messages, the importance of student attendance. I have outlined expectations including the length of the instructional day and virtual learning requirements in several previous emails. Today, I find myself in the position of informing our families that I will be sending out a large number of attendance letters, reflecting an increase in both full and half day absences, especially in our afternoon virtual learning environment. These absences not only impact our ability to teach but also your child’s access to new learning. Attendance data is also reported to the state and can impact everything from school funding to school rankings. I truly appreciate any support you may be able to provide in ensuring that your student is logged on, participating in the assigned period for the expected time, and reporting any absences to Mrs. Napoles.

Looking forward to a full week of in-person learning
Be well, stay safe and enjoy the weekend!

Mrs. Tierney

