

FORT LEE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



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Ken Rota, Mike Raftery, Lauren Glynn, Joe Finizio, Deputy Chief Pat Kissane, SRO Jesus Sanchez, Lt. Eddie Young and Scott Bendul attended the 2018 National School Safety Conference

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome Back to School!
 This September, the district welcomed 4050 students. This is the highest number during my tenure as Superintendent. Prior to the opening, staff members worked throughout the summer revising and creating curriculum; cleaning and repairing facilities; conducting student orientation for 7th & 9th graders; staff convocation and a district professional development day.
 This is the first edition of the Fort Lee School District electronic newsletter. We are planning to use this forum to provide information about the happenings in the school district and with the Board of Education.

Please remember that the School District has an app for your mobile device. You can download the app from our district's website homepage:
<http://flboe.com/cms/one.aspx?portalId=181664&pageId=8044495>
 Have a great school year.



CURRICULUM UPDATES

Our curriculum review cycle is a systematic process that models continuous improvement to ensure that all students in the district receive an education that supports the district's mission, vision and goals and enables all students to pursue their highest aspirations. We were excited to take advantage of our summer months to write curriculum. Instructional supervisors, along with teachers in all subject areas, worked diligently to update, revise, or create curriculum for new programs and courses. During the summer, all curriculum documents were edited for QSAC compliance. All curricula is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), replacing the former Common Core State Standards.

Additional changes to curriculum documents include: theater arts standards were incorporated into the ELA curriculum in grades K-5, dance standards were incorporated into the physical education curriculum in grades K-8, and the heritage months were incorporated into the social studies curriculum in grades K-8.

New courses offered to students at the high school include Graphic Design, IB Music HL 2, Korean 3, and Mandarin 3.

Principals, supervisors, and faculty coordinators will continue to share and collaborate on implementing our curriculum and appropriate instructional strategies for this coming school year with grade level and subject area teams. At the beginning of the school year, professional development was provided for ELA and social studies teachers in grades 5-12. World Language and ESL/Bilingual teachers from all grade levels also received professional development to enhance instructional practices in second language acquisition. We continue to support rigorous science and mathematics curricula and will be piloting a new K-4 mathematics program for implementation during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Our Balanced Literacy initiative brings classroom libraries into each K-4 class. The implementation of the Units of Study by Lucy Calkins and the Reading and Writing Project commenced at the start of the school year. Students read a variety of different genres and



have access to leveled texts to progress “up the staircase of complexity”. In the workshop model, students are taught to collaborate with others and engage in a wide variety of problem solving strategies. The workshop model is a research-based, efficient method of teaching both reading and writing to help students flourish into fluent readers and writers. The program exposes students to rich academic vocabulary and a Reader's Theater unit which allows students to improve their listening, speaking, and fluency skills. In order to successfully implement the workshop model, we have and continue to provide extensive training and coaching for our elementary staff. The Renaissance STAR benchmark assessment data has informed us that over the past year, nearly every student has progressed towards reaching mastery of grade level standards in both language arts and mathematics. We will continue to utilize this benchmark assessment system to guide instruction and monitor student learning.

The district is embarking on a mindfulness initiative aimed at supporting administrators, teachers, and students to help them cope better with stress and make the classroom environment more productive for teaching and learning. Research has proven that the use of contemplative or mindfulness-based approaches to teaching enhances and improves classroom climate, and helps learners to calm their bodies and minds, focus their attention, and become more compassionate and empathetic. Further, regular mindfulness practice changes how our body and brain respond to stress, strengthening connections in the prefrontal cortex which reduces reactivity in our limbic system, and enhances self-reflection and self-regulation, which play a critical role in learning. Staff and teacher

training will be provided by PURE EDGE, (<http://pureedgeinc.org/about-us/>); training for our high school students will be provided by Meaningful Directions Therapeutic Services (<http://www.meaningfuldirections.com/>) funded through a Health and Wellness grant; and smartphone application, Headspace, (www.headspace.com), will be available for our students and staff to support mindful learning.

PROJECT CHILD FIND

How to Access Special Education in Fort Lee

We would like to ensure that all students with disabilities, who reside in Fort Lee, are located, identified, and evaluated. These efforts are extended to all youth from ages 3 through 21. If you suspect that your preschool or school-aged student is experiencing learning problems or developmental delays, you can call the Fort Lee Public School District, Office of Special Services, at (201) 585-4652. Special Services personnel will answer your questions and provide support.

If you wish to request an evaluation for special education and/or related services, you will be directed to send a written request for an evaluation to the Child Study Team at the following address:

Fort Lee Public School District
Office of Special Services
265 Whiteman Street
Fort Lee, NJ 07024

In the letter please include your child's name, address, date of birth, parent/guardian contact information, and suspected or known disability.

After the Child Study Team receives your request, they have twenty days to have a meeting with you – the parent/guardian. At this meeting, you and the team will determine if an evaluation is warranted.





School #3 Ice Cream Social - Students at School #3 enjoying ice cream provided by our PTA at our annual welcome back ice cream social.



School #2 - Students at School #2 enjoy the First Grade Trip to the Fort Lee Public Library to learn how the library works and the resources available to them.



School #2 - Ms. Beffre's class enjoy a day with Sesame Street characters and parachute games at School #2 Field Day, Spring 2018.



School #2 - Ms. Milgram's Pre-K students make a heart with hands.



School #2 - Ms. Milgram's Pre-K class pictures.

Fort Lee High School College Acceptances--Class of 2018					
College	# Accepted	College	# Accepted	College	# Accepted
Adelphi University	3	Louisiana State University	2	Stevens Institute of Technology	6
American University	3	Loyola University, MD	1	Stockton University	2
Amherst College	2	Manhattan College	2	Stony Brook University	12
Arizona State University	2	Manhattan School of Music	1	Syracuse University	6
Baruch College	2	Maryland Inst. Of Art	2	Temple University	3
Binghamton University	6	Mass. College of Pharm. & Health Sciences	1	The American Musical and Dramatic Academy	1
Boston College	3	McGill University	2	The College of New Jersey	19
Boston University	8	Missouri University of Science and Technology	1	The New School	2
Caldwell University	2	Monmouth University	13	The Ohio State University	1
California State University	1	Montclair State University	32	University of Arizona	1
Carnegie Mellon University	1	New England Conservatory of Music	1	University of Buffalo	4
City College of CUNY	2	New Jersey City University	5	University of California, Berkeley	2
Cornell University	1	New Jersey Institute of Technology	20	University of Colorado	2
Cooper Union	1	New York Institute of Technology	4	University of Connecticut	4
Macaulay Honors College of CUNY	1	New York University	13	University of Delaware	10
Dartmouth College	1	Northeastern University	2	University of Florida	1
Drew University	3	Pace University	12	University of Hartford	3
Drexel University	13	Pennsylvania State University	20	University of Maine	1
East Stroudsburg University	1	Pratt Institute	3	University of Maryland	5
Eastman School of Music	1	Purchase College	2	University of Massachusetts, Amherst	14
Fairleigh Dickinson University	18	Purdue University	4	University of Massachusetts, Boston	2
Fashion Institute of Technology	3	Quinnipiac University	3	University of Miami	2
Felician University	2	Ramapo College	18	University of Michigan	1
Fordham University	21	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	1	University of Minnesota	1
George Washington University	3	Rochester Inst. Of Technology	5	University of New Hampshire	2
Hobart and William Smith Colleges	2	Roger Williams University	1	University of New Haven	1
Hofstra University	1	Rowan University	11	University of Pennsylvania	1
Hunter College of CUNY	6	Rutgers University	102	University of Rhode Island	3
Indiana University	3	Saint John's University	6	University of Rochester	2
Iona College	2	Saint Peter's University	4	University of the Sciences	1
Ithaca College	3	Salve Regina University	2	University of Toronto	2
John Jay College of Criminal Justice	3	Santa Clara University	2	University of Virginia	1
Johns Hopkins University	1	School of Visual Arts	3	University of Vermont	3
Johnson & Wales University	3	Seton Hall University	27	Vanderbilt University	1
Kean University	12	Smith College	1	West Virginia University	5
Lehigh University	2	Southern Methodist University	1	William Paterson University	19

Mind Full, or Mindful?



MINDFULNESS PRACTICE OF THE MONTH

Mindful Posing

One easy way for children to dip their toes into mindfulness is through the simple method of body poses. To get your kids interested, tell them that doing fun poses can help them feel strong, brave, and happy.

Have them go somewhere quiet and familiar, a place they feel safe. Next, tell them to try one of the following two poses:

1. The Superman: this pose is practiced by standing with the feet just wider than the hips, fists clenched, and arms reached out, stretching the body out as long as possible.
2. The Wonder Woman: this pose is struck by standing tall with legs wider than hip-width apart and hands or fists placed on the hips (Karen Young, 2017).

TRANSFORM YOUR MIND, CHANGE YOUR BRAIN

Click the link below to learn how to transform your mind, change your brain!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tRdDqXgsJ0&feature=youtu.be>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, October 29, 2018	FLHS Open House	6-8:00 pm	FLHS
Thursday, November 1, 2018	PTA BOE Candidates' Night	7:00 pm	HS Auditorium
Sunday, November 4, 2018	Daylight Saving Time Ends	(Set Clocks Back)	
Monday, November 5, 2018	Board of Education Meeting	7:30 pm	HS Media Center
Tuesday, November 6, 2018	Election Day (District Closed)		