October 27, 2020

Freedom Prep Charter School Families:

Thank you for your partnership during remote learning. Thank you for ensuring your children are up and online for instruction. Thank you for encouraging them to complete and submit their work daily and to put forth their best effort even under such foreign conditions. Your partnership has allowed us to create a strong foundation at the start of the school year, one that we will build upon as we move into the next phase of our reopening process – an optional transition back into the building on November 30th.

As you consider whether you will opt for your child to return to the building on November 30th or continue remote learning, please find some information below that we hope will be helpful.

- **A Reopening Google Survey has been sent out with just 4 questions.** The survey is designed to help us to prepare for Phase 2 of our reopening process and best serve your children. Please complete the survey as soon as possible, but no later than October 30, 2020. If you did not receive the survey, please contact your school’s operations team (contact information below). Families and students can decide to return to school for in-person instruction starting November 30th or continue remote learning.

- **Students who continue remote learning will be required to join instruction at the same time as their peers in school virtually between 8:00am – 3:15pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.** Students will have the opportunity to follow along with their classmates and engage with their teachers daily. Instruction and assignments will be consistent for students at home and in school. On Wednesdays, instruction will be primarily self-guided with teacher support opportunities.

- **Students who choose to return in-person on November 30th will attend using a hybrid model with students in the building 2 days per week from 7:45 – 3:15pm (Monday and Tuesdays or Thursday and Friday).** Siblings will be placed together in hybrid groups, some students with special education needs will be given the opportunity to attend daily, and, pending the number of students who select in-person instruction, we may need to create a third student group. During in person days, students will remain in the same classroom with desks that are 6 feet apart, with the same small group of 6-12 students during the entirety of the day, including lunch. Teachers will rotate into their classrooms to provide instruction. On their virtual days, students will be required to attend class at the same times while at home on their laptops.

- **Every student and staff member who enters the building will participate in a screening process and be required to wear a mask throughout the day.** To ensure student safety and minimize the potential for exposure to or spread of the Coronavirus and function in accordance with New Jersey Laws, FPCS will adhere closely to these standards. Screening questions are attached, along with the scenarios that will require students shift from hybrid to remote learning. Each individual’s temperature will be taken each morning. Students who will not wear their masks for the duration of the day will be asked to shift to remote learning. Hand sanitizing stations can be found at each entry point and in each classroom and students will be
encouraged to wash their hands regularly. Schools are cleaned daily with common spaces, like restrooms, cleaned on multiple occasions each day. A deep cleaning will take place on Wednesdays.

- **The Camden City School District will continue to provide transportation for students who reside further than 2 miles away from the school.** Courtesy busing may be available for students living between .75 miles and 2 miles from the school. Please be sure to complete the Family Google Survey to confirm your need for busing if you live more than .75 miles from the school. Note that masks will be required on the bus and assigned seats will promote social distancing.

- **School to Home Learning Bags will be provided to all students prior to the start of Phase 2 of the reopening process.** We are excited to have sought and received grant funds that will allow us to provide a range of learning materials to students at each grade level in addition to their Chromebooks. Thus, supplies from notebooks and pencils to Graphic calculators and counting blocks will be available to students within their classrooms and at home. The materials are for each student’s personal use to minimize cross contamination and will increase the tools students have available to them for learning while at home. Pick-up schedules are forthcoming.

- **Family Townhalls are back beginning November 10th at 5:00pm.** As we prepare for students to return to the building, Biweekly Family Townhalls will allow for the free flow of information and provide opportunities for you to share questions, suggestions, or problems to be solved in real time. Please email your school’s operations manager for the meeting link and a meeting calendar invite. I sincerely hope to see you there.

- **If you would like to be more engaged in the work of the school, please consider joining the Family Advisory Committee.** The committee will meet monthly to provide feedback, offer suggestions, and plan for the growth and development of our school community. If you would like to join, please contact Fatimah Dale, Family Enrollment and Engagement Senior Manager, at Fatimah.dale@democracyprep.org or 609.471.4531.

- **As health conditions continue to change some of our plans may need to change as well.** The health department has indicated that positivity rates in our community and the nation are growing, but they believe this is happening in “a slow and controlled fashion”. Our region within the state of NJ is currently considered to be at a moderate risk level. However, we will continue to watch the data closely, listen to health and safety experts, and respond accordingly. We will also continue to communicate with you along the way.

- **Please reach out with any further questions, suggestions, or concerns.** Again, your partnership matters and your feedback is required for our success.

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With gratitude,

Constance Faith Horton
Executive Director