

# Forest Hills School District



David L. Lehman  
Superintendent of Schools

September 14, 2020

Dear Ranger Families,

How are you and your family doing? I would like you to ponder that question for a few moments. We understand that these have been extremely difficult times for families since the onset of the COVID 19 Pandemic. In many cases there are more questions than answers, information changes on a seemingly hourly basis, and we all long for days of the normal past-pre-COVID. We also understand that these are very challenging times as we work together to balance health and safety, technology, education, emotional well-being, and child custodial concerns. Certainly these have been very dynamic times adding stress to all Rangers. On a positive note, the District was able to start on time, all of the students have completed their orientations, and the students have been mastering the hybrid model and the technologies associated with that model. In fact, we are entering "R" fourth week of instruction. In an effort to fully return to normal, the District needs your help. I would like to share with you a few items to help us achieve "R" combined goal of achieving a traditional, daily instructional model. Please review the following points:

- **OPERATION RANGER RETURN SURVEY** - We are requesting families to complete the [Operation Ranger Return Survey](#) for each school-aged child residing in your household. The survey will help us plan for return to school as projected for Monday, September 28, 2020. Please plan to complete the survey by the close of school on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. Please pay very close attention to the transportation questions. We will need accurate numbers regarding which families will be transporting students to school and which students will be riding the school busses.
- **CHROMEBOOK PERMISSION SLIPS** - As we work together to prepare "R" students for the future, the ability for students to navigate and utilize technology will become increasingly important. Sometimes it appears we cannot even place a meal order or pay a bill without using some sort of technology. With this being said, please complete the Electronic Device Acceptable Use Form so your child will have an opportunity to bring home a Chromebook to complete assignments and to transform their learning experience. This form and additional information were provided to your child. Additionally, please review the other information that is included in the packet. Please contact the IT department or the building principals if you have any questions regarding the Chromebooks.
- **CANVAS** - The Forest Hills School District purchased the Canvas Learning Management Platform to provide families with a single entry point for educational activities, lessons, communications, and support. The Canvas system will be utilized on a daily basis to support instruction during in-school instruction and to provide a single point of access for remote options as necessary. Over the past several weeks, staff has been working with the students to learn how to navigate this system. Mr. Alexander has been designated the Canvas administrator. Please contact Mr. Alexander at (814) 487-7613, extension 3800. Over the next few days, helpful

information including student and teacher lead videos will be provided through the District Website Canvas link to assist students and families as we work together to navigate this learning platform.

- **TUTORING** - The aforementioned survey will ask respondents if they are interested in their child receiving tutoring services. We would like to offer these services to provide targeted instruction for students and families who feel their child may need some extra academic assistance. Please consider this assistance as you complete the Operation Ranger Return Survey.
- **TRANSPORTATION** - September 28, 2020 will be a significant pivot point with District transportation. When the District moves to a full-time traditional instructional model, the transportation schedule will return to normal runs and times. Therefore, you will see one (1) school bus at the bus stop and there may be a few delays as we navigate this significant pivot point. Once again, your responses on the survey will assist us as we navigate these issues.
- **ATHLETICS AND SPECTATORS** - As you are well aware, there are many different viewpoints as to how spectators can view indoor and outdoor activities and events. With the current restrictions, these decisions are very difficult; however, “R” focus should remain on “R” students. To assist families, several activities have occurred. The District has agreed to partner with Pixellot and the NFHS Network to live stream events on their platform. This technology should be added to the District’s facilities in the upcoming weeks. Mr. Gironda is also working to livestream events utilizing a YouTube channel. For this opportunity to work, we will need 1,000 registered subscribers. Please subscribe to the Forest Hills Athletics YouTube Channel to register. As a final note, the District will also be utilizing the Forest Hills Channel to post games and events.
- **INFORMATION** - Information will be provided over the next several days pertaining to the start of a traditional model of instructional delivery. This information will be shared over a variety of mediums including - phone notification, paper, District website, and District social media outlets. Please be prepared to review the information. Some of the information, including the *Notice of the Return To School*, will contain important information related to conducting school activities occurring under a State of Emergency and National Pandemic.

In light of the hardship and stressors many of us are experiencing, I would like to personally thank the entire Ranger community for your combined hard work and dedication to the Forest Hills School District. I am certain we will be able to work together to achieve “R” goal of returning to a traditional instructional model. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Stay healthy and safe Forest Hills.

Sincerely,



Dr. David L. Lehman  
Superintendent of Schools

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