



## Franklin Middle School

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August 28, 2020

Dear Franklin Middle School Families:

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all Franklin Middle School families to a unique 2020-21 school year! As you are aware, all Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD students will begin this school year in a remote learning environment. Please know that we are committed to providing our students with the most enriching experience possible during this difficult time for our country.

The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD will be implementing a phased-in approach to returning students to in-person learning. I have included a diagram of the phases in this letter for your reference. We are hopeful that we can meet each of the goals listed on the diagram so that we can have students safely return to in-person learning as quickly as possible.

On Tuesday, September 8, all students will begin learning remotely with live synchronous lessons and follow their "Day 1" classes. **Your Cohort Group Assignment has been sent to you in a separate mailing. In this mailing, we have included three very important documents:**

- Student schedule
- The bell schedule that explains when students are supposed to login.
- A calendar for the month of September that defines what day (1,2,3, or 4) students should follow on their schedule.

We will be focusing on developing strong relationships and rebuilding our community during the first week or so of school. From Day 1, our focus will be on meeting the social and emotional needs of our students.

As part of this focus, please know that all of our teachers will reach out to our students to ensure that they understand their schedules and that they know when they are supposed to login to their classes. We know that not understanding the schedule may bring a lot of anxiety to our new students. Please have faith that our teachers are also aware of this and will help the students through this anxiety.

**Please note these important directions for the beginning of the school year:**

### **Device Pick Up:**

- Families who signed up on the District form to receive a Chromebook device may pick it up, curbside, in the rear of our complex, on **Thursday, September 3 from 8am-6pm**. If you are in need of a District Chromebook and have not yet registered for one, please do so at: [www.ktufsd.org/devices](http://www.ktufsd.org/devices)



### **Directions for starting remote:**

- Students in grades 5-12 will find classroom invites in one of two places:
  - From any device, go to [ktufsd.org/clever](https://ktufsd.org/clever) and click on Ken-Ton Google Login and use your username and password. If you do not know it, contact your child's teacher.
  - Students will also have invites from their teachers on email that will direct them to Google Classroom or Canvas.
  - Google Classroom and Canvas are always accessible from the Clever portal ([ktufsd.org/clever](https://ktufsd.org/clever)) using their Kenton Google Login.
  - Links are provided within Canvas and Google Classroom for your child to Google Meet to join your classes at your assigned periods.
  
- What Students Can Expect: Students will follow their assigned period schedule, 4 days synchronous and 1 day asynchronous (Wednesday).
  - Synchronous learning (two way interaction) experience will occur using Google Meet Video Conferencing, Google Classroom Chat or other determined interactive two way tasks assigned by the teacher.
  - On Wednesdays students will have opportunities to participate in activities such as small group instruction, student support, project completion, student consultation and assignment work. Teachers will develop a plan for Wednesdays and share with their students. Our teachers will also provide students with directions on how to virtually “check in” on Wednesdays.
  - Assessments, quizzes, local exams, projects and homework will occur, and be adapted to meet the needs of our students in remote learning
  - Flipped Classroom models may be utilized at teacher discretion:
    - Lessons may be recorded by teachers for students to watch prior to class.
    - Videos/Readings may be assigned to enable discussion.
  
- Grading/ Evaluation
  - will be standard numeric for students Grades 5-12.
  
- Attendance
  - Teachers will take attendance at each period. Students will be asked to have their camera on for a part of class for attendance. Teachers will manage at what times during instruction cameras can be off. If a student misses in person instruction, it is up to teacher discretion to allow for make up work.
  
- Extracurricular:
  - There will be extra curricular opportunities for students. All of these opportunities will begin virtual. More information will be forthcoming regarding these opportunities.



**Grade 5 Students/New Students:**

- We will post a graphic presentation on our school webpage by the end of the day on Friday, September 4. This video presentation will give an overview of our WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) orientation program for new students, our school programs/offerings, and how our students can make the most of everything our school has to offer. We will also offer parents the opportunity to fill out a form to ask us any questions that they may have.

**Additional Items Pick Up:**

- Additional materials for students (text books, workbooks, etc.) will be available for pickup sometime during the week of 9/14. Details will be forthcoming.

Please call the main office, or email me at [cginestre@ktufsd.org](mailto:cginestre@ktufsd.org), if you have any questions or concerns. We will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have. We will persevere through this challenging time!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Christopher J. Ginestre in cursive.

Christopher J. Ginestre  
Principal  
Franklin Middle School

Handwritten signature of Michael B. Haggerty in cursive.

Michael B. Haggerty  
Assistant Principal  
Franklin Middle School