



## FOLSOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1357 MAYS LANDING ROAD

FOLSOM, NJ 08037

Phone: 609-561-8666 / Fax: 609-567-8751

[www.folsomschool.org](http://www.folsomschool.org)

Matthew Mazzoni, Ed.D.

*Superintendent*

Christopher R. Veneziani

*Business Administrator*

Michele L. Hetzel

*Director of Curriculum & Instruction*

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August 27, 2020

Dear Folsom Families,

It is with excitement that the Folsom staff welcomes your child and family back to school for the 2020-2021 school year. This year, we are eager to meet the 48 new students that will soon be recognized as Falcons and become a part of this special school-community. The school theme for this year is ***We Are All in This Together*** from High School Musical! The verse from the original soundtrack states:

We're all in this together  
When we reach  
We can fly  
Know inside  
We can make it  
We're all in this together...

The verse above speaks volumes to the current climate in the world and the choice we have in working through such a challenging time – together as a team. First and foremost, we are committed to supporting your son/daughter in-person and remotely. It is our mission to foster a learning environment in which every student has the maximum opportunity to achieve academic excellence. We also understand the importance of creating an environment that is welcoming and inviting, accessible, safe, and secure for students, staff, and families.

Cooperation and communication are essential to providing your child(ren) with the tools needed to reach his or her fullest potential. Positive communication between home and school is an integral part of your child's total educational experience. Through a partnership between home and school your child will gain the knowledge and experiences needed for success.

Folsom Elementary School welcomes the following new staff members:

Teacher	College/University	Grade/Content Area
Ms. Amie Mauro	Roger Williams University	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA
Ms. Kimberley Nemerov	Elizabethtown College	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education

We are currently advertising for a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade elementary position with the recent resignation of Mrs. Pavlovitch. Mrs. Pavlovitch will be missed and we wish her the best in her new position which is closer to her home in Pennsylvania. Our goal is to have a teacher in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom by the start of the school year. The new additions will continue the success at Folsom by raising the bar of excellence for our students.

### **First Day of School**

The first day of school for all students is **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**. Cohort B students will be in-person for the first day of school while Cohorts A and C will learn remotely.

Students attending school in-person are able to enter the school at 8:20 am. The first day of school is a full day. Dismissal time for students is at 3:10pm.



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## Schedule

Your child's homeroom teacher and schedule for the upcoming school year can be viewed in the Realtime Parent Portal. Parents/Guardians have required paperwork to complete through the Parent Portal prior to seeing your child's teacher and/or schedule. The Parent Portal can be found on the upper right-hand side of the school's website at [www.folsomschool.org](http://www.folsomschool.org).

New users to the Realtime Parent Portal were emailed a welcome letter on August 27th with information necessary to access the portal. Please contact Mr. Patrick Ward in the IT Department if you are having difficulties with the portal. He can be reached via email at [pward@folsomschool.org](mailto:pward@folsomschool.org) or by phone at 609.561.8666 ext. 115.

Just a reminder that the student cohort schedule is as follows:

Cohorts	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort A	In-Person	Remote	Remote	In-Person	Remote
Cohort B	Remote	In-Person	Remote	Remote	In-Person
Cohort C	All Remote				

## SACC Program

The School Age Child Care (SACC) program will be available on the first day of school in the morning and afternoon. Students registered for the SACC program can be signed into the program beginning at 6:30 am. Please contact Mrs. Michele Hetzel at 609-561-8666 ext. 120 for further information about the SACC program.

## Student Screening

Parents will be asked to complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire using the Realtime Parent Portal to confirm students are free of COVID-19 prior to attending school in-person. More information on the screening process will be shared with you in the upcoming days.

## Mandatory Masks

School staff, students, and visitors are required to wear face coverings on the bus and in the school building unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health or other exceptions outlined by the NJDOE (i.e. - eating lunch).

## Busing

Bus postcards detailing the time and stop location will be mailed to families in the near future. Please contact Mrs. Lori Abruzzese in the District Office at 609-561-8666, ext. 114 for further information.

## Breakfast and Lunch Programs

The breakfast and lunch programs will be in operation on the first day of school. The costs for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows:

	Full Price	Reduced Price
Lunch	\$3.05	\$0.00
Breakfast	\$1.90	\$0.00

\* New Jersey passed a law covering the cost of all reduced meals.



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If you took part in the program last year, your child will receive free or reduced breakfast/lunch until either: (1) the new forms are processed for this school year, or (2) October 20, 2020. If you do not submit a household application for free and reduced price school meals and you have not received a letter from the district informing you that you are entitled to free/reduced breakfast/lunch, you will be charged a full priced breakfast/lunch as of this date. Free and reduced lunch applications are available in the Realtime Parent Portal.

### Special Areas

Students will receive the same special area (i.e. physical education) for a two-week period when attending school in-person. For instance, Mrs. Valenti's 4<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom students will have *art* in their classroom the week of September 8<sup>th</sup> and September 16<sup>th</sup>. Next, the students will have music for the following two weeks. The special schedule will be shared with students and families prior to the special change.

All-remote students will complete one (1) special area activity every Wednesday on the virtual day. The special area teacher will upload the assignment/activity into the grade level Google Classroom. Special area classes will rotate on a weekly basis. The all-remote instructor will update students and families of the upcoming special.

### All-Remote Learning

Student schedules for learning all-remote can be viewed in Realtime. Students are expected to follow the in-person schedule as outlined in Realtime **except** for specials as explained above. Below are example schedules:

#### PK & K All-Remote Instruction

**9:00 am – 11:30 am – PK students will follow the approved PK remote schedule (75 minutes) while Kindergarten instruction is 2.5 hours instruction.**

Google Meet for morning meeting and outline of the day by the teacher

Daily shared reading with PK & K students

Daily Foundations lesson and guided reading for K students

K students will participate in math workshop that mirrors classroom instruction

#### 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade All-Remote Instruction – 4 hours of Instruction

9:00 am – 9:15 am – Google Meet morning meeting and outline of the day by the teacher

9:15 am – 10:50 am – English Language Arts Block

10:55 am – 11:35 am – Lunch / Break

11:40 am – 1:00 pm – Mathematics Block

1:15 pm – 2:05 pm – Science / Social Studies Block

#### 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade All-Remote Instruction – 4 hours of Instruction

9:40 am – 11:40 am – English Language Arts Block

11:40 am – 12:20 pm – Lunch / Break

12:25 am – 1:30 pm – Mathematics Block

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm – Science / Social Studies Block

#### Middle School All-Remote Learners – 4 hours of Instruction

Students will follow the in-person school schedule as detailed in Realtime.



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Google Classroom will be the platform used by Folsom staff to support students in their learning. All activities, videos, and assignments will be posted in the Google Classroom. In addition, all-remote teachers have been assigned to each grade level to support students learning all-remotely. Lastly, more detail to classroom expectations will be shared with students and families by the assigned teachers once the school year begins.

### Water Bottles

Reminder for students to bring their own water bottles to school and to use the bottle fillers located throughout the school to minimize touching.

### Technology Device Distribution

The Folsom staff identified dates and times for only Cohort A students and All Remote students to pick-up Chromebooks along with specific learning materials to begin the school year. Cohort B students will receive their Chromebooks in school on Tuesday, September 8th. Chromebook distribution is necessary as the second day of school is a Wednesday all-remote day for students.

Chromebook pick-up will occur behind the school at the gym doors. The dates and times are as follows:

**Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> between 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.**

**Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.**

We look forward to educating your son/daughter this school year. As always, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher and/or administrator for any assistance throughout the school year. Also, please refer to the school website at [www.folsomschool.org](http://www.folsomschool.org) for essential information such as the School Reopening Plan, Parent & Student Handbook, Code of Conduct, Calendar of Events, and Online Lunch Payment Portal.

In addition, please follow the school's official Facebook page Folsom Falcons for upcoming events and to see all the great things happening at Folsom!

Respectfully,

Matthew Mazzone, Ed.D.  
Superintendent