

# FORT LEE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



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### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

Welcome to October! It may still feel like summer, but school is in session. I am happy to report that in-person instruction using the hybrid model began this week in the District. Students in grades Pre K-4 and self-contained students in grades Pre K-6 returned to their schools. On Monday, October 5, the students in grades 5 & 6 will return to the Intermediate School to begin the hybrid model. I am hopeful that the students will be able to return to the Middle School and High School on the scheduled date of October 19. Parents who opted for remote instruction still have that option.

As we progress through this Fall, district administration and staff will monitor and evaluate the instructional process that is occurring in the schools. After all schools are operating with the hybrid model, the next steps will be considered.

This Fall is a learning experience for all involved: students, teachers and parents. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as the district continues its efforts in this unprecedented time.

Please be safe and remember to wear your mask.



## Assistant Superintendent



***Dr. Sharon Amato retires after 36 years of dedicated service to Fort Lee Public Schools.***

Dr. Amato started in Fort Lee as a teacher and has had a 20-year plus career as a school administrator. She served as Interim Superintendent of Schools, Director of Operations, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and most recently as Assistant Superintendent. She has mentored countless young teachers and administrators who are now supervisors, principals, and assistant superintendents. Dr. Amato is a visionary who possesses an exceptional track record of forward thinking and strategic planning to raise student achievement and elevate the district's curriculum programs.

As Director of Operations, Dr. Amato had a stalwart focus on revitalizing the school district by planning the much needed expansion of district facilities. Working with community members and administrative teams, the district raised millions of dollars through a referendum initiative that was supported by the voters 2-1. She was involved in obtaining grants for energy savings programs and worked in concert with district leadership and architects to design the new facilities, which are models of excellence.

She has worked with teams of colleagues to increase the ratio of computers to students, made improvements to Special Education programs, and developed a S.T.E.A.M. program in Fort Lee. Further, in collaboration with members of the administrative team, she leveraged new mandates to increase accountability, improve teacher practice, and create a vision for the future. By working with administrative and teacher teams in Fort Lee, the district updated district curriculum in every subject area over the past several years. The district has reformed instructional design by developing programs such as the Balanced Literacy initiative and offering programs such as Robotics and Maker Spaces that promote 21st Century learning paradigms.

Dr. Amato has always articulated district goals and priorities with a focus on educational excellence. Through decades of exemplary leadership, and by building coalitions and forging partnerships between and among stakeholders, facilities are updated and expanded, student achievement has increased, and more opportunities are available for our students. Her work has contributed to the educational success and life preparation for thousands of school children in the Fort Lee Public Schools. Congratulations to Dr. Amato and best of luck in all of her future endeavors!



***Ms. Diane Collazo-Baker was appointed as the new Assistant Superintendent of Schools.***

We are happy to introduce Ms. Diane Collazo-Baker as our new Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Fort Lee Public Schools. Diane has been an educator for twenty years. After teaching for five years in New York City, she joined Fort Lee Public Schools. She has served in many instructional and leadership roles in the district including substitute teacher, classroom teacher, staff developer and most recently, a Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction. She managed and supervised all aspects of the district's K-8 English Language Arts program, K-12 Fine and Performing Arts and K-6 Social Studies programs. In addition, she managed all aspects of our robust Balanced Literacy initiative.

Most recently, she spearheaded the development of a standards-based report card and played a primary role in the development of the district's Equity Team, leading activities and making presentations. Diane has also served at the building level, substituting for district principals during extended absences. She works with the business office on departmental budgets and works critically and collaboratively with all district stakeholders as well as colleagues county and statewide. She participates in curriculum consortiums and serves on the Fort Lee Public Library Council. Please join us in wishing Ms. Baker success in her new role!

## Curriculum Update...

Over the summer, instructional supervisors, along with teachers worked diligently to update, revise, or create curriculum for new programs and courses. New curriculum was developed for the following high school courses: English Language Arts and Math Strategies, Business Technology in a Global Classroom, English 9, and English 10. The District will also be integrating the history of disabled and LGBTQ persons in middle and high school curricula. All curricula are aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS). 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.

To provide continued support in literacy, the District has enhanced student access to quality literature. Students in grades K-4 now have access to Renaissance myON which is a student-centered, personalized e-reader library that has more than 6,000 enhanced digital books. Additionally classroom libraries, consisting of hundreds of high interest, diverse books, have been provided to grade 5 and 6 English language arts classrooms.

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 as well as our teacher created assessments to guide instruction and monitor student learning.



## Athletics...

The Fall sports season for the District's interscholastic athletic teams has kicked off! Fans are encouraged to visit <https://flboe.com/cms/one.aspx?portalId=181664&pageId=321867> for additional information on COVID-19 protocols and spectator policies. Also, the Athletic Department is offering a livestream via YouTube for most home contests this season. Visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU5kXbrYjo5RTNGJh6mpWHg/> featured to view the calendar of events.

**Fort Lee School Counseling Resource Guide|Fall 2020**

Click on this link to view the  
Fort Lee School Counseling Resource Guide/Fall 2020:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sT5PgBtQBwQnUI1gr4z9KEkr3qClgmO9/view>

# Social Distancing...



Projection equipment assists with virtual learning.



"Shhh...Live Google Meet in progress!"



Masks were decorated with the students names to let them know "We can't mask how excited we are to welcome you back!"

# School Safety Measures...



Plexiglass shields were installed on teacher's desks.



Virtual Google Classroom In Progress!



Classroom preparation to ensure social distancing.



Hand sanitizing stations were installed throughout the school buildings.





The deadline to register to vote is October 13th (for people living in New Jersey). If you have moved since the last time you voted or if you have never voted, you need to register in order to vote in the November election. For information on how to register to vote, please go to the following link:

<https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>

**The Census is safe, it's easy and it's important.  
You count so BE COUNTED!**

The deadline to fill out your Census 2020 questionnaire is 10/5!  
Fill it out at <https://2020census.gov/>.

Looking for Substitutes...

If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, aide or secretary in the district, please click on the following link to apply: <https://tinyurl.com/Sub4FLPS>. If you have any questions, please contact Jaime Murphy, Director of Human Resources, at [jmurphy@flboe.com](mailto:jmurphy@flboe.com).



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

Monday, October 5, 2020	Board of Education Public Meeting (Virtual)	7:30 p.m.
Monday, October 19, 2020	Board of Education Public Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Monday, November 2, 2020	Board of Education Public Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Monday, November 16, 2020	Board of Education Public Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Monday, December 14, 2020	Board of Education Public Meeting	7:30 p.m.
<p>Remote access or venue location for the public meetings will be posted on our district website at <a href="http://www.flboe.com">www.flboe.com</a> prior to each meeting.</p>		