

FORT LEE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ms. Paula K. Colbath, President
Mrs. Kristen Richter, Vice President
Ms. Tanya Byers-Kang
Ms. Elisa Cho
Mrs. Esther Han Silver
Mrs. Holly Morell
Mrs. Candace Romba
Mr. Michael Rubino
Ms. Julene Stassou

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Kenneth J. Rota
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Diane Collazo-Baker
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

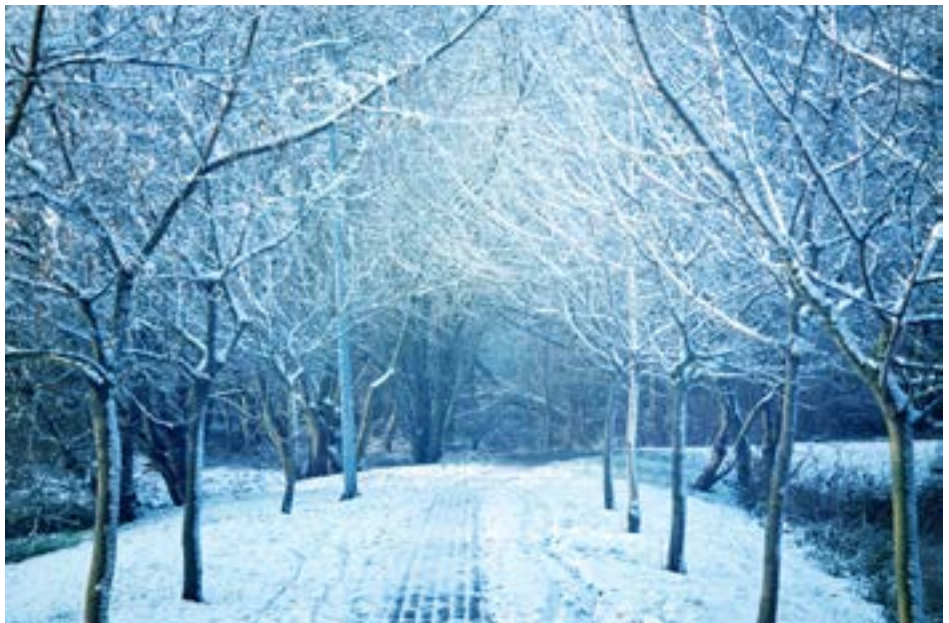
Ms. Jaime Cangialosi-Murphy
Director of Human Resources

Visit our Website: www.flboe.com

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

Brrrrr. It is cold outside. I hope that you and your family are warm and toasty at home. The good news is that the chill of February means we are moving closer to Spring. Thoughts of Spring bring hope for better days. Hope for an improvement in the pandemic situation and an eventual return to our "normal" routine.

The Fort Lee School District staff is continuing in their diligent efforts to provide the best educational experience possible for our students. That commitment to the students will not change. I commend the students and their families for their extraordinary efforts as well. This is a challenge that we have all experienced together and we will continue to be successful by working together.



What's Happening...

REORGANIZATION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - 1/4/21

Board Secretary, Ms. Haquisha Taylor, reported the results of the election of the Fort Lee Board of Education as follows:

(3) Board Members – Three-Year Terms Votes

Tanya Byers-Kang	7,940
Julene Stassou	7,573
Elisa Cho	7,156

Ms. Haquisha Taylor administered the Oath of Office to newly-elected Board Members - Mrs. Tanya Byers-Kang, Ms. Julene Stassou, and incumbent Ms. Elisa Cho. The Board elected Ms. Paula K. Colbath to the Office of President and Mrs. Kristen Richter as Vice President for 2021.



Tanya Byers-Kang
Board Member



Julene Stassou
Board Member



Elisa Cho
Board Member



Paula K. Colbath
Board President



Kristen Richter
Board Vice President

The Fort Lee Board of Education is committed to providing access to its public meetings virtually as well as in-person using a Zoom format. Currently, public meetings are being held in the Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium for a limited number of the public to attend in-person. The public meeting is also livestreamed utilizing Zoom videoconferencing. Our main priority is the safety of all participants during the unforeseen future of this pandemic. Public access to information for Board Meetings will be published on our district website at www.flboe.com prior to each meeting.

2021 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE		
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Fort Lee Board of Education at the Reorganization Meeting of January 4, 2021 adopted the following schedule of meeting dates. Unless noted, the meeting day is a Monday. Check our district website at www.flboe.com for meeting locations and/or remote access links for public participation.		
Month	Date (Mondays unless otherwise noted)	
JANUARY	4th (Reorganization Meeting)	19th (Tuesday)
FEBRUARY	1st	22nd
MARCH	8th	22nd
APRIL	12th	26th
MAY	10th	24th
JUNE	7th	21st
JULY	12th	
AUGUST	16th	30th
SEPTEMBER	7th (Tuesday)	20th
OCTOBER	4th	18th
NOVEMBER	8th	22nd
DECEMBER	13th	
All meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. and immediately go into Executive Session. We will reconvene into the Public Business Meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m. The Fort Lee Board of Education reserves the right to change locations of meetings by posting notices at the affected schools and on our District website (www.flboe.com). Official action will be taken at public meeting(s).		

What's Happening...



WELCOME MONIQUE KIM TO CENTRAL OFFICE

We are happy to introduce Ms. Monique Kim as our new Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction for Fort Lee Public Schools. After receiving a Masters in Elementary Education from Teachers College at Columbia University, Monique began her teaching career 16 years ago as a sixth-grade teacher in Fort Lee at Elementary School #2. She also taught third and fourth grade classes and achieved a Highly-Qualified Teacher status in Language Arts and Math. In addition to being selected the Bergen County Teacher of the Year 2015 Honoree from the Fort Lee School District, Monique has obtained NJ Supervisor and Principal Certifications. Monique has embraced various instructional and leadership roles in the areas of curriculum development and school improvement, and she will continue to be an active member of the District's Equity Team. As an Instructional Supervisor, Monique will oversee all aspects of the district's K-6 English Language Arts and Social Studies programs along with K-12 Visual and Performing Arts. She will also serve on the Fort Lee Public Library Council as a liaison to the Fort Lee Public Schools.

Monique believes that all children can learn. She is a reflective practitioner who understands the importance of facilitating student learning by maximizing the strengths and supporting the needs of the learners. Monique looks forward to developing partnerships with the District stakeholders in order to provide maximum support for the teaching staff at Fort Lee's schools. She intends to foster a learning community in which all learners are encouraged to think, to collaborate, and to be engaged in their learning process to ensure the success of the Fort Lee students as well as encourage them to become lifelong learners.



NEW SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM FOR GRADES K-6

Afternoon Social Activities for K-4 Students

The Fort Lee Public Schools' Counseling Department has developed a virtual afternoon program for our students to have the opportunity to engage in relationship-building skills through virtual social activity. This activities program fosters social and emotional learning (SEL) and gives students the ability to interact with their peers, while trying new things and having fun. The students will participate in interactive games, activities, and discussions that will provide students the opportunity to practice effective communication, teamwork, collaborative problem-solving, and leadership skills.

The following programs are being offered:

- Grade K and 1: "Sandwiches and Show and Tell"
- Grades 2 and 3: "Munch and Mingle"
- Grade 4: "Snacks and Scattergories"

Some examples of activities for student participation include:

- "Scavenger Hunts" and "Conversation Starters" to build upon conversation skills, turn-taking, and self-awareness.
- "Mindful Breathing Practices," "I Spy," "How To," and "Show and Tell" to enhance brain power, focus and attention.
- "Charades," "Jeopardy," and "Scattergories" to give students the opportunity to practice teamwork and sportsmanship.

Additionally, students can access Mrs. Fusco's "Virtual Counselor Office" with links to various read aloud stories, skill-based practice activities, social and emotional learning (SEL) resources and follow up activities to lessons on the "Character Theme of the Month." It can be accessed by visiting your school counselor's Google Classroom page or by clicking the following link: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vRwSNloI8AQcAbagu2TdzbkWoDfx7xI7hIZUfNfXzLLIOACKiEiqyL8CJ4XWS2v2VVYxDPdZAOQjeM/pub?start=true&loop=false&delayms=60000>

If you are interested in having your child participate, and have not completed the google form, please click on the following link to complete the form by February 8, 2021: <https://forms.gle/USzCn6P9thEQEJBR8>

Afternoon Social Activities for 5th & 6th Grade Students

Ms. Clausman & Mrs. Waack are also hosting after school social groups for students at the Intermediate School. If you are interested in having your child register for these groups, please join Ms. Clausman's Google Classroom (5th grade) with code **d2b3pez** or Mrs. Waacks' Google Classroom (6th grade) with join code **js06rr4**. You can also email them at klausman@flboe.com or awaack@flboe.com.

Governor Educators of the Year...

School #1 Submitted by Rosemary Giacomelli, Principal



S#1 Brittany Sikoryak & Arianna Egloff

S#1 Brittany Sikoryak Teacher Grade 1

Brittany has been at School 1 for the past 6 years. She has taught several different grade levels all with the same outstanding success. Her dual certification has allowed her to be an inclusion teacher, a general education teacher supporting resource students, and an overall “go to” person as needed. There is so much I could say about Brittany Sikoryak, she is the ultimate teacher. Nothing is ever too difficult for her. She is always willing to make any necessary changes as requested. Ms. Sikoryak is always there for the kids. Whether it’s designing her classroom with flexible seating or making a power point to assist one student, she is always “on it”. She has a detailed plan for the year that is tightly aligned with high standards and ensures success on standardized assessments. Ms. Sikoryak implements a program that successfully develops positive interactions and social-emotional skills. She differentiates and scaffolds her instruction, meeting the needs of all her students. Along with this, she is flexible about modifying lessons to take advantage of teachable moments. As this year has changed our normal procedures, Ms. Sikoryak has changed her delivery of instruction to meet all of today’s challenges. Over the summer, Ms. Sikoryak spent weeks working on different schedules to meet the district’s needs and to create

the best possible situation for our students. It’s no wonder that Brittany would be the first one to come to our minds when thinking of an outstanding teacher!

S#1 Arianna Egloff School Nurse

Mrs. Arianna Egloff has been the main “go to” for all our medical needs during this COVID-19 environment. She has maintained all medical records for our current and new students as well as our staff of 75 people. She has been in contact with the Fort Lee Health Department for every case which includes children and adults alike. Mrs. Egloff has reported and followed through each case notifying the superintendent and the principal for any and all issues that have arrived and has met them in a professional manner in which she should be commended. Along with this, she has made herself available 24/7 always ready to answer a question or be involved. Mrs. Egloff’s goals for the nursing program are highly appropriate to the situation in the school and to the age of the students and have been developed following consultations with students, parents and colleagues (meeting the needs of all). Her knowledge of governmental regulations and resources for students is extensive, including those available through the school or district and in the community. Mrs. Egloff maintains a culture in the school for health and wellness, while guided by the nurse, is maintained by both

teachers and students. Her office is efficiently organized and is highly appropriate to the planned activities. Mrs. Egloff also teaches those students receiving medication, for any reason, the proper way to take the medication while taking an active role in their health. In conclusion, Mrs. Egloff is continually seeking ways to improve the nursing program and makes changes as needed in response to student, parent or teacher input.



School #2 Submitted by John Brennan, Principal

S#2 Gabrielle Sietsma Teacher of the Year

This year’s School 2 Teacher of the Year is Ms. Gabrielle Sietsma. Gabi began her career in Fort Lee teaching in our ASD classrooms. She has taught Pre-K through fourth grade. During that time, she has distinguished herself as an exceptional teacher and mentor. She has also earned her BCBA which has enabled her to better serve her students by helping her understand and correct behaviors that prevent students from reaching their potential. Gabi has established herself as a highly regarded member of the special education teaching staff among her colleagues, parents and administrators.



S#2 Gabrielle Sietsma

S#2 Debra Colosimo Educational Services Provider of the Year

This year’s School 2 Educational Services Provider of the Year is Ms. Debra Colosimo. Debbie began her career as a paraprofessional in 1998. She served in three districts before finding her home in Fort Lee five years ago. She has served in several paraprofessional roles including her present assignment in our ASD classroom. She has extended herself through professional development by being trained in CPI, ABA and RBT. Her advanced skill set has allowed her to be a valuable asset to any position she has been assigned to. Debbie has also embraced the role of mentor to other staff who have grown from her guidance and experiences.



S#2 Debra Colosimo

Governor Educators of the Year...

School #3 Submitted by Jay Berman, Principal

School #4 Submitted by Patrick Ambrosio, Principal



S#3 Alycia Adams
Teacher of the Year

Ms. Alycia Adams began in Fort Lee as a paraprofessional and became a fifth grade teacher in 2008. She currently teaches third grade at School 3. She is always one of the first people to volunteer to serve on school committees and has served on the School Improvement Planning, Reopening Committee and Pandemic Response Teams. Ms. Adams has also served as co-curricular advisor to our Environmental Club and the school newspaper. Ms. Adams creates a special relationship with her students. She has continued to do this during our virtual instruction, organizing a talent show, mailing handwritten notes and dropping off goodies at their homes at the end of last year. She is an outstanding member of our faculty and well deserving of this honor.



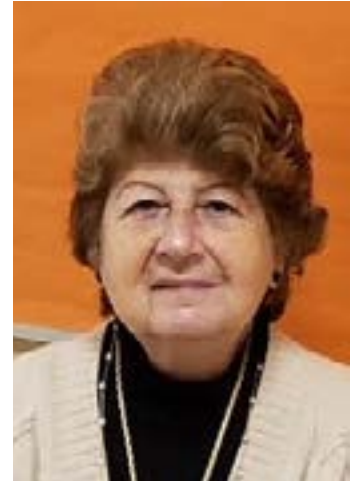
S#3 Claudia Testino
Educational Services
Provider of the Year

Mrs. Claudia Testino serves as a classroom paraprofessional at School 3. In this capacity, she provides outstanding support for her students. She truly cares about each one and provides strategies to help them grow and succeed. She can be counted on to help supervise arrivals, lunch and dismissal and is always reliable and professional with her assignments.



S#4 Carrie Hodge
Teacher of the Year

The School 4 Family congratulates Mrs. Carrie Hodge and recognizes her as the 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year award recipient. Mrs. Hodge has been teaching for 21 years, and is enjoying her 17th year as a Special Education Teacher in Fort Lee. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Special Education from William Paterson University and her Master's Degree in Reading and Literacy from Walden University. Mrs. Hodge is a born teacher who truly enjoys every moment with her students. Her students amaze her every day and she is constantly learning from them. Mrs. Hodge has made a positive impact on our school and in our community. We are extremely proud that she is part of the School 4 Family. We congratulate Mrs. Hodge on this honor!



S#4 Vanda Sorrentino
Educational Services
Provider of the Year

The School 4 Family congratulates Mrs. Vanda Sorrentino and recognizes her as the 2020-2021 Educational Services Professional of the Year award recipient. Mrs. Sorrentino has worked as a paraprofessional in the Fort Lee School District for nearly 20 years, servicing all four elementary buildings as well as, our after school program. She adores working with the elementary age children and has enjoyed helping them discover their own strengths and talents. Mrs. Sorrentino is a special member of our School 4 Community and is known throughout the building as "someone who would do anything for the students and staff." We congratulate Mrs. Sorrentino on this honor!



Governor Educators of the Year...

Lewis F. Cole Middle School

Submitted by Gina Ruesga, Interim Principal



LFCMS Meghan Mitchell
Teacher of the Year

Ms. Meghan Mitchell began teaching at the Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School since its opening in September 2019, after being a part of School #2 for five years. The Intermediate School is very lucky to have such a highly-effective teacher who is committed to her students' success. Ms. Mitchell is thoughtful and extremely organized in her preparation of lessons, and skillfully manages an appropriate flow of scope and sequence throughout the 6th grade standards in English and Social Studies. Ms. Mitchell is just as committed to her colleagues, constantly sharing her innovative plans to ensure that a culture of communication and collaboration is maintained throughout our school. During this remote setting, Ms. Mitchell paves the way in creating lessons that keep her students engaged and motivated, not only academically, but socially and emotionally as well. Her passion for education has been a tremendous benefit to our school as a whole, and we congratulate her on being our 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year!



LFCMS Matthew Addeo
Educational Services
Provider of the Year

It was September 2019 when Mr. Matthew Addeo seamlessly transitioned from his position as a School #1 special education teacher to 7th-grade guidance counselor at the Lewis F. Cole Middle School. The love and admiration Mr. Addeo received from his classroom students continue in his role as counselor, and once you meet him, it is easy to understand why. Mr. Addeo is extremely passionate about the social and emotional growth of all of his students and works very hard to develop strong relationships with them throughout this very pivotal time in their educational career. His sense of humor and warm spirit have made it effortless for him to reach not only his students, but their parents, and his colleagues alike. Mr. Addeo is a wonderful addition to the middle school family, and we congratulate him on being our 2020-2021 Educational Services Professional of the Year!

Congrats

Fort Lee High School

Submitted by Lauren Glynn, Principal FLHS



FLHS Gary Glebas
Teacher of the Year

It is with great pleasure that we recommend Gary Glebas for the 2020-21 Governor's Educator of the Year Program. Mr. Glebas has been a teacher in the Fort Lee School District for the past 22 years. During this time, he has repeatedly proven to be an exceptional teacher whose dedication and integrity is an asset to our school district. Mr. Glebas currently teaches Robotics, Computer Programming, and AP Computer Science. His love of this subject matter matched with his enthusiasm has really helped this program grow. Mr. Glebas works

well with all students. He is admired and respected by his students and has developed a lasting rapport with the students at Fort Lee High School. His teaching methods are outstanding and he continually thinks outside of the box with instructional methods and technology, keeping students motivated throughout his lessons. Mr. Glebas is the consummate professional, he collaborates well with colleagues and is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. He brings great energy and encouragement to our school community and he is a true pleasure to work with. It is our opinion that Gary Glebas is the perfect candidate for The Governor's Teacher Recognition Award. His continued commitment to the Fort Lee School District has been proven and there is no doubt that his positive impact on our students will continue for years to come.



FLHS Nateka Brewton
Educational Services
Provider of the Year

It is with great pleasure that we recommend Nateka Brewton for the 2020-21 Governor's Educator of the Year Program. Mrs. Brewton has been the school nurse at Fort Lee High School for the past thirteen years. During this time, she has proven to be a dedicated and knowledgeable professional

who goes above and beyond to keep our students safe and healthy. Mrs. Brewton is incredibly diligent and organized. Her systems to maintain records are highly effective and her management of student health needs is impeccable. Mrs. Brewton communicates well with students, staff, administration, and families. She provides all parties with clear information and procedures related to their concerns. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mrs. Brewton has been irreplaceable. She is a constant source of support and incredible knowledge. She goes above and beyond with every situation that arises and has remained cool, calm, and collected. She is our sense of control in an unknown and nerve-racking situation. We would be lost without her. It is our opinion that Nateka Brewton is the ideal candidate for Fort Lee High School's Educational Service Provider within the 2020-21 Governor's Educator Program.

Athletics...

Football:

Fort Lee's varsity football team finished with a record of 4-2. The team won all three away contests during the 2020 season. Highlights from the Bridgemen's home game against Bergen County Technical, a 37-34 win for Fort Lee, on October 16 were a part of News 12 New Jersey's "Friday Night Football" program for the first time in recent memory. Head Coach Charles Salame was named Coach of the Week by the New York Jets and was featured on ESPN's Monday Night Countdown before the Jets took on the New England Patriots. In their first season in the Super Football Conference Ivy Division, the team clinched a share of the Ivy Red Division.



Football Team Pre-Game Huddle

Girls Soccer:

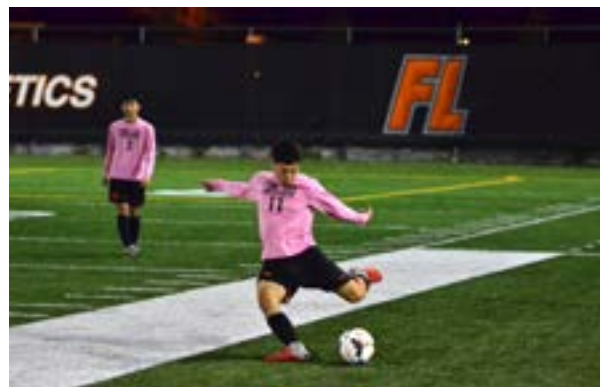
Varsity girls soccer "raised their banner" as the side clinched their first-ever title, winning the Big North Conference American Division crown in 2020. The program finished a perfect 6-0 in-division and advanced to the NJSIAA Northeast B (Group II) Regional Tournament Semi-Final at James Caldwell to end a historic season. Bridgemen Head Coach Calogero Pagano was named the Division's Coach of the Year. Five student-athletes garnered First Team All-League honors.



Gabriella Garita - Girls Soccer

Boys Soccer:

Varsity boys soccer finished the 2020 campaign 6-4 and went 4-1 at the Sugarman Sports Complex. The team swept the season series with league foes Ridgely Park and Dwight Morrow while also notching a win in the inaugural Suzanne Murphy Memorial Tournament. Two senior student-athletes were selected to play in the 2020 Bergen County Boys Soccer Coaches Association (BCBSCA) All-Star Game.



Jude Choi - Boys Soccer

Girls Tennis:

Fort Lee's girls tennis team won the 2020 Big North Conference American Division title, finishing with a perfect record of 5-0 against divisional opponents. Head Coach Philip Zappel was named the Division's Coach of the Year. The entire varsity starting lineup earned First Team All-League Honors. Sophomore Stephanie Yakoff was selected to the Bergen County Women's Coaches Association (BCWCA) First Team All-County for the second consecutive season. In post season play, the Bridgemen hosted James Caldwell for the second round of the NJSIAA Northeast C Regional Tournament after receiving a bye for the opening round of play.



Stephanie Yakoff - Girls Tennis

Athletics (continued)...

Cross Country:

Fort Lee's cross country team competed in a modified Big North Conference Alpha Division for the 2020 season. The girls finished in second place in both the batch meet and overall on the season with a record of 2-1 in-division. The boys program finished in fourth place but netted a bronze medalist in sophomore Ekuyami Conteh in the NJSIAA North 2, Group II State Championship Meet. Two Bridgemen, Conteh and Tiffany Park, received First Team All-League Honors in Head Coach Maria Giannattasio's inaugural campaign.

Season 2 (Winter):

The District's bowling and basketball (boys and girls) programs are set to compete in Season 2 (winter) of the NJSIAA's 2020-21 competition calendar with practices beginning on January 11. Indoor track and wrestling have been moved to Season 2A which will commence in mid-February. Due to NJSIAA regulations and several actions taken by the Governor, fans will not be permitted to attend indoor sporting events – including away and neutral sites – during Season 2. All varsity, and select sub-varsity, contests that take place at Fort Lee High School will be livestreamed on YouTube. The link to access livestream broadcasts is available on the Athletics webpage on the District's website, www.flboe.com.

Fort Lee School Counseling Resource Guide|Winter 2021

The Fort Lee School Counseling Department would like to kick off National School Counseling Week (February 1-5, 2021) by providing families with two unique newsletters. The first is the Fort Lee School Counseling Resource Guide which provides K-12 families with tips of virtual learning, ways to communicate with teachers, Google Classroom codes for all counselors, a wellness challenge, after school virtual social activities and much more. The second is the Fort Lee High School Counseling Corner. This newsletter highlights all activities that the high school counseling department has sponsored thus far, what will be happening in the upcoming months, student accomplishments, virtual lessons, college acceptances and much more. Both newsletters highlight the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and wellness.

Fort Lee School Counseling K-12 Winter Newsletter

https://flhs.flboe.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_181781/File/Fort%20Lee%20School%20Counseling%20Newsletter%20Winter%202021.pdf

Fort Lee High School Counseling Corner

https://flhs.flboe.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_181781/File/Guidance/FLHS%20Counselor's%20Corner%20Jan%202021.pdf

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Friday, February 12, 2021	Lunar New Year - DISTRICT CLOSED	
Monday, February 15, 2021	Presidents' Day - DISTRICT CLOSED	
Tuesday, February 16, 2021	Winter Recess - SCHOOLS CLOSED	
Monday, February 22, 2021	Board of Education Public Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Monday, March 8, 2021	Board of Education Public Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Monday, March 22, 2021	Board of Education Public Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Remote access or venue location for the public meetings will be posted on our district website at www.flboe.com prior to each meeting.		

