Franklin Township Public Schools

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Vice Principal

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Greetings RTS Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year!

I hope you and your family had an opportunity to rest, refocus, and reconnect over the summer. I am honored to return as Vice Principal of the Road to Success Alternative Program (RTS). This will be my sixth year in this role, and I am excited to build on the work we have accomplished together while introducing new opportunities for our students and families.

This year brings several exciting changes and initiatives to RTS, including new district leadership, new RTS staff, expanded programs and courses, new career and technical education opportunities, and a renewed focus on strengthening student engagement, achievement, and preparation for life beyond high school.

Our theme for the 2026–2027 school year is **RISE at RTS**. This theme reflects what we strive to do every day: help students move forward after adversity, face challenges with determination, achieve their goals despite setbacks, and build meaningful relationships with the people who can support their success.

Our **Success of the Warrior** slogan is: **RISE at RTS: Your Comeback Starts Here!** As an RTS school community, RISE represents our students' and staff's commitment to:

- **R — Accept Responsibility for Your Actions**
- **I — Do All Things with Integrity**
- **S — Practice Self-Control at All Times**
- **E — Always Put Forth Your Best Effort**

When we RISE at RTS, we create a culture where everyone can learn, grow, and succeed!

Throughout the year, our staff will continue strengthening instruction while making **social-emotional learning (SEL), restorative practices,** and **trauma-informed care** visible throughout our program. These are not separate initiatives; they are important elements of teaching and learning that help create trust, safety, belonging, engagement, accountability, and academic success.

Providing a safe, nurturing, structured, and engaging learning environment remains one of our highest priorities. We want every student to know that adults at RTS care about them, believe in their ability to succeed, and are prepared to support them academically, socially, emotionally, and personally.

RTS Virtual Family Orientation

We will be hosting our annual **RTS Family Orientation** on **Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 6:00 pm**. This orientation is for our new RTS students and their families only. I will be reviewing what students can expect at RTS during the first two weeks of the program, overall program expectations, and monthly activities. If you would like to attend, please join us by clicking the link below and rsvp to Ms. Milly Perez at (732) 249-6410 Ext. 228.

https://meet.google.com/dhm-otcu-gok or dial (US) +1 337-573-0089 PIN: 574 885 155#

RTS Daily Schedule & Franklin Youth Center Partnership

RTS students will begin their school day at the **Franklin Youth Center (FYC), located at 429 Lewis Street in Somerset**, from **12:30 pm to 2:30 pm.** RTS Students will then be transported by district shuttle to **Franklin Middle School at Hamilton Street Campus (FMS HSC)**, where they will continue their academic coursework from approximately **2:40 pm until 6:00 pm.**

Through our continued partnership with the **Franklin Youth Center**, middle and high school students will have opportunities to participate in elective courses including **Concepts of Fitness, Drone Technology, Human Development & Relationships, and Money Matters**. These courses are designed to increase student engagement while providing meaningful opportunities to earn credits and develop skills that extend beyond the traditional classroom.

New Partnership with Lincoln Technical Institute

I am especially pleased to announce our new partnership with **Lincoln Technical Institute**. Eligible RTS students in grades **10–12** will have the opportunity to earn high school credits while participating in career and technical training in:

- **Welding Technology**
- **Electrical & Electronic Systems Technology**
- **Diesel & Truck Service Technology**

RTS students participating in this opportunity will attend Lincoln Tech's **South Plainfield campus** and will be provided transportation. After completing their Lincoln Tech programming, students will return to RTS to continue their academic coursework at FMS HSC from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

This partnership represents an important part of our continued commitment to helping students connect their high school experience to college, career, technical training, employment, and future opportunities.

Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone Policy

Beginning this school year, Franklin Township Public Schools will implement the **New Jersey Department of Education's Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone Policy**.

Internet-enabled devices must remain put away throughout the instructional school day. Our goal is to create learning environments where students are present, focused, engaged, and connected to their learning and to one another.

We recognize that this will be an adjustment for students, and there may be challenges as we establish new routines. Your partnership will be essential. We ask families to reinforce these expectations at home and support RTS staff as we implement the policy consistently, patiently, and fairly. Together, we can help our students understand that: **Phones Away. Minds Engaged. Build a Successful Future.**

Family Partnership & Communication

Strong communication between home and school is critical to student success. We encourage you to remain connected with RTS throughout the school year and to contact us whenever you have questions, concerns, or information that may help us better support your child.

Please regularly visit the **RTS Alternative Program website** for program news, important announcements, events, schedules, resources, and updates.

Families will also be invited throughout the year to participate in RTS family conferences, student celebrations, PBIS activities, college and career readiness events, workshops, and other program activities. We truly want our families to be active partners in their child's RTS experience.

Preparing Students for What's Next

Our goals extend far beyond helping students recover credits, improve attendance, and graduate from high school. We want our students to leave RTS with the confidence, life skills, academic preparation, career awareness, relationships, tools, and resources they need to build fulfilling and purposeful futures.

Whether a student's next step is returning successfully to the traditional school setting, graduating from RTS, attending college, entering a technical or apprenticeship program, joining the workforce, or pursuing another meaningful pathway, our job is to help them prepare for what comes next.

I am excited to work alongside our students, families, staff, and community partners to make the 2026–2027 school year successful and meaningful.

For new RTS students, please remember to bring your **district-issued Chromebook** and **charger** on the first day of class at Franklin Youth Center.

Thank you for entrusting us with the opportunity to educate, support, encourage, and challenge your child. Together, we will **RISE at RTS**, because **Your Comeback Starts Here!**

Respectfully,

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