



Fort Lee Public Schools

Fort Lee High School

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www.FLBOE.com

Lauren Carrubba
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Dear Parents, Juniors & Seniors,

In June 2020, Governor Murphy signed a new bill creating the “Bridge Year Pilot Program” for the Class of 2021 and 2022 as a result of schools ending the 19-20 school year in virtual learning environment. This program offers students an additional year of high school to address learning loss and missed opportunities in extracurricular activities, including spring sports. This program does not include fall or winter sports.

Who is eligible?

- Current juniors and seniors who meet all graduation requirements prior to the end of senior year.
- Students must be 19 years old or younger during the entirety of the bridge year; a student that would turn 20 years old before the end of their bridge year is not eligible to participate.
 - Exception: A student with disabilities is eligible to participate if the student will turn 20 years old during the bridge year due to services provided under the student’s IEP.

What will the bridge year look like?

- Students who pursue a bridge year must notify the school no later than February 15th, 2021 of their senior year.
- Students participating in the bridge year program are entitled to attend graduation ceremonies with their respective cohorts but will not receive a diploma until the end of the bridge year.
- Students remain enrolled as a student of Fort Lee High School during the bridge year.
- Students must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 at Fort Lee High School to remain in the program.
- Students will be given Individualized Learning Plans that define academic and co-curricular goals for the bridge year and detailed activities and strategies for accomplishing these goals including counseling and academic support, course work, and athletic participation. Please keep in mind, the bridge year does not guarantee a spot on an athletic team or guaranteed playing time.
- During the fall semester, students shall take between 9 and 12 credits at Fort Lee High School, Bergen Community College or a combination of both
- During the spring semester, students shall take between 9 and 12 credits at Bergen County Community College as a non-matriculated student
- During either semester, students may take up to 3 credits offered by a four-year institution
- A student may stop participation upon completion of the fall and prior to the spring semester. This student will receive an updated transcript and no longer be eligible for participation in any spring sport or extracurricular activities.



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- Students taking courses at Bergen Community College may be charged a maximum of \$145 per credit inclusive of all fees (lab courses may charge an additional \$45). Financial Aid may be available.
- Students may participate in a spring sport sanctioned by the NJSIAA (NOT fall or winter sports). The NJSIAA will waive the eight-semester rule.
- Students who are participating in the bridge year CANNOT transfer to another school, even with a change of address.
- The Fort Lee High School transcript will be updated to include the bridge year courses.
- A student participating in a spring sport or extracurricular activity during their bridge year shall pay applicable student athletics and activities fees and be subject to Fort Lee High School's student code of conduct, athletic code of conduct, and any other applicable codes, rules or policies that other students participating in the spring sport or extracurricular activities at Fort Lee High School are required to follow.

For additional information on the Bridge Year Pilot Program from the State of New Jersey please visit the NJDOE Website: https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/boardops/docs/NJDOE_BridgeYearGuidance.pdf

If you are interested in applying for the program, please email lcarrubba@flboe.com no later than February 15, 2021.

Sincerely,

Lauren Carrubba

Director of School Counseling Services