

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

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August 27, 2021

Happy Friday to all!

I hope you know that I try very hard not to 'over-communicate' with you during the week. That's why I offer this **weekly Friday communication** with you--to avoid multiple communications in the same week. However, I did need to send important information to you during this week, so I'll reference those AND share some additional relevant information before you officially launch your weekend plans:

- On Wednesday, August 25th, you received an email message from me about **school bus transportation**. IF YOUR FAMILY DOES NOT RELY ON SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION, YOU SHOULD HAVE SIMPLY DELETED THAT MESSAGE! As is the case with all my communication with you, the School Bus Transportation email message can be found on the [District website](#) under the '**From the Superintendent**' tab. It is also in a dedicated space on our homepage.
- Speaking of school bus routes and schedules, the **SAFESTOP** app which lets you know in real time when your student's bus will arrive at the bus stop will not be operational until **September 20th**.
- Yesterday, August 26th, you received an email message from me about our District's participation in the **Pooled Testing Program**. That message also can be accessed from the [District website](#) under the '**From the Superintendent**' tab. Remember; the **deadline** to be included in the first round of pooled testing is **Wednesday, September 8th, 3:00 PM**.
- I wanted to let you know that the **Daily Self Check** (officially called the **Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance**) has been modified for this school year. I've attached it for your reference. I hope you will print it and post it on your fridge as a reminder to do the '*daily self check*' before you head to school or to the bus stop.
- Remember; there is no virus mitigation effort more effective than vaccination. Nearly 70% of our eligible students are vaccinated (it's much, much higher for our employees). There are many places to schedule a vaccine. With a Walgreens right here in Kittery, I'd suggest starting there. Click [here](#) to schedule a vaccine, or contact your healthcare provider.
- Staying home if you're symptomatic, washing/sanitizing your hands throughout the day, maintaining three feet between yourself and others, and **properly wearing a mask** are also very effective mitigation strategies. Currently, students, staff, and visitors at Mitchell Primary School and Shapleigh School are **required** to wear a mask in the buildings. At Traip Academy, we are currently **requiring visitors** to wear a mask if they enter the high school, and we are **highly recommending masks for students and staff**, regardless of their vaccination status. I will fully disclose that this could change at any time. I am watching other Maine schools carefully, particularly those that started school two weeks ago. In many cases, those schools have already modified their masking protocol from a recommendation to a requirement, given the number of positive cases. We'll hope for the best at Traip Academy but be prepared to pivot in order to keep everyone safe and in school.

- The entire District staff attended a training yesterday morning with Sue Badeau, a national presenter on the topic of youth and adult mental health. We know that, now more than ever, our students will **need to feel safe, need to be heard, and need to feel connected**. We also know that some students and families may be feeling anxious about 'being behind' with learning after a school year of "fits and starts" last year. Quite simply, that's absurd! You should not worry about that. We will welcome our students where they are, make them feel safe, heard, and connected, and enjoy deep learning along the way. This is a new start! All we ask is that you do what is in your power to ensure that your student comes to school--**EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY, ALL DAY!** That's our mantra for 2021-22.
- Speaking of Sue Badeau and her expertise in child development, our families and staff are invited to join Sue Badeau for an exciting live webinar on **Tuesday, September 14th 6-7:30 pm** via Zoom:

6 Keys to Building a Resilient Family

All children, and particularly those who have experienced trauma, go through periods of stress and adversity in their lives. Resilience is often defined as the capacity to "bounce back" after adversity and to grow and thrive while healing from trauma. The changes to day-to-day and family life as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are still evolving, but as life begins to adjust to the "new normal," how do we best support resilience in ourselves as parents and caregivers and in our children and in our family as a whole? Parental resilience and children's resilience are both essential to building resilient families and are important to long-term health, happiness, well-being and success in life. This webinar is for parents and other caring adults and will describe six key skills related to resilience with tips on how to build these skills. Click on this [link](#) to register.

That's all for this week! Enjoy the weekend, and we'll see everyone at school Monday morning!

Sincerely,



Eric F. Waddell
Superintendent of Schools

Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours have you had a fever* or taken fever reducing medicine?

YES =



Do you feel sick, had vomiting/diarrhea, fever*, sore throat, or felt unwell?

YES =



Have you been told to stay home and isolate/quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure?

YES =



Stay home with any YES response to the questions above.

Attend school when all answers are NO and your child is feeling well with no other symptoms of illness. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY ILLNESS THEY SHOULD STAY AT HOME UNTIL NO FEVER FOR 24 HOURS WITHOUT TAKING FEVER REDUCING MEDICATION AND SYMPTOMS ARE IMPROVING OR GONE.

*A fever is 100.4F/38C or greater.



Updated 8.16.21

