

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

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December 4, 2020

I hope your return to school following the Thanksgiving break was positive and productive. My kids reminded me last night that there are only 12 school days before the December break (and then we can put 2020 behind us...thankfully!).

The Maine CDC's Health Advisory System re-classified all Maine counties this morning. **York County will remain in a yellow classification for another week.** The next H.A.S. re-classification is set for December 11th. The yellow classification for York County indicates that the county has an elevated risk of COVID-19 spread. The continuation of a yellow H.A.S. classification in York County results in no changes to our deployment here in the Kittery School District. However, it does mean that winter interscholastic athletic programs will not begin on December 7th. I suspect Mr. Roberge will offer further details on this.

A few other odds and ends...

- The School Committee is working on the **21-22 school calendar** (doesn't that sound hopeful?), and they would like to hear from you. Specifically, which options would you prefer:

Option A ~ Begin the school year **after Labor Day (Sept. 7th)** with a projected Traip Academy graduation date of June 17, 2020.

Option B ~ Begin the school year **prior to Labor Day (Aug. 30th)** with a projected Traip Academy graduation date of June 10, 2022.

If you would like to weigh in, send a quick email message to Mrs. Schoff (dschoff@kitteryschools.com) who will capture your feedback and share it with the School Committee.

- Prior to the December break, I will be asking you to consider how your student would like to learn for phase 3 (beginning Feb 1st), so begin giving this some thought. Your options continue to be onsite (K-5), hybrid (6-12), or fully remote (K-12). More details to come, but you may want to begin the dialogue with your student now.
- I am excited to share an opportunity to host a **state-wide virtual screening of *Angst***, a film-based education program designed to raise awareness around anxiety, emphasizing youth and families. The film includes interviews with kids, teens, experts, and parents. The goal is to help people identify and understand anxiety symptoms and encourage them to reach out for help. The film is outstanding and acknowledges a worldwide epidemic while leaving everyone with a very hopeful message. It's moving and relatable to people of all ages.

There is one live virtual event **at 6:30pm on December 15th** with limited seating statewide. The movie will promptly be followed by a panel discussion moderated by *Choose To Be Healthy Coalition* staff (out of York Hospital) along with other state level specialists in this arena. They will also include access to further resources and materials.

On December 17 & 18 the documentary will be available to be streamed at any time. The intention is not only to allow individuals who were unable to make it to the live event to stream, but also to make it **available for educators to use in the classroom or advisory/homeroom with students** to start a conversation. Feel free to

check out the [trailer](#), [message](#) from the producers and [discussion guide](#). Anyone wishing to see the screening on 12/15 or have access on 12/17 or 12/18 **MUST REGISTER. Registration**

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GqAu0R_rTfmPs5BDFyTq3g

- Finally today, I am always on the lookout for success stories of our Traip Academy graduates. I came upon this one while watching **207** this week. Ryan T. Higgins is a Traip Academy grad, a community member, a parent of school-aged kids, and a wildly successful children's author and illustrator. Watch this segment from 207 and consider how fortunate we are to have Ryan and so many other talented folks living right here in our community!

<https://www.newscentermaine.com/video/news/local/207/author-and-illustrator-ryan-t-higgins/97-51ac9c56-34ae-4e4f-885a-67c062736f61>

That's all for now. Your District Leadership Team is always happy to hear from you with your compliments or suggestions for improvement. Do not hesitate to reach out!

We'll talk again next Friday...

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Eric", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Eric Waddell

Superintendent of Schools