

# Kittery

## School District

*Truth & Knowledge*

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April 30, 2021

Another Friday means another Friday Communication from your friendly neighborhood superintendent of school. I hope you're all doing well. Tomorrow is the first day of May, believe it or not. It's remarkable how quickly the days pass.

- Speaking of May 1st, Governor Mills has **revised COVID-19 travel restrictions** effective May 1st. Here's the gist of it:

*All states are now exempt from travel restrictions unless a state is otherwise determined by the Maine CDC as being high risk. If one or more states see a spike in cases of highly contagious COVID-19 variants, Maine will apply its 'test or quarantine' requirement to travelers to and from that particular state. The Maine CDC will publicly announce any such states when they are identified.*

- There was another significant change this week regarding COVID-19 mitigation efforts specific to **mask-wearing**. Here is the revised language from the ***PK-12 and Adult Education Public Health Guidance***:

Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear a mask/face covering when **indoors**. Students age five and above are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth when **indoors**. (Updated 4/28/21) Masks are recommended for children ages two to four, when developmentally appropriate. Masks/face coverings must be worn by all students on the bus.

- As a result of this change, the District will adhere to the following **outdoor mask-wearing protocol while school is in session**. This protocol will be effective Monday, May 3rd:

*During **structured** outdoor school-day activities, staff and students may unmask as long as 6-foot physical distancing can be maintained. During **unstructured** outdoor school-day activities (like recess), staff and students will continue to don their masks.*

- The **Maine Principals' Association** (the governing body of Maine Interscholastic Athletics) made their own announcement earlier this week regarding outdoor mask-wearing:

*Masks are not required for outdoor practices and competitions. Masks are recommended when 6 feet of physical distance is difficult to maintain (e.g., athletes on the bench). They are also required when individuals go inside (e.g., to locker rooms, rest rooms, or on a bus). **Spectators** are not required to wear a mask at outside events if they are able to maintain 6 feet of distancing. In short, masks will not be*

*mandated at practices or games. If 6 feet physical distancing cannot be maintained in dugouts, on sidelines, or at any other location off the playing field or track, masks will need to be worn.*

- **Gather** is a Portsmouth-based food pantry that serves the needs of families and individuals on the Seacoast. The dates/times for their May **Meals 4 Kids** and **Mobile Market Program** here in Kittery are as follows:

*May 5 and May 19 from 1:30 - 3:00 PM at Post Office Square in Kittery (10 Shapleigh Road)*

- Finally today, I want to remind you that next week is a **week of gratitude** across the country for several school employee groups:

~**National School Principal Day** is Saturday, May 1st. Thank you to Principal Gamache, Principal Ellis, and Principal Drisko for providing sound leadership at our three schools!

~**Teacher Appreciation Week** (and let's include all school employees in that group!) is May 3 - 7. Teacher Appreciation Day is Tuesday, May 4th. All staff will be treated to Coffee & Crullers from Lil's Cafe Tuesday morning.

~**National School Nurses Appreciation Day** is Thursday, May 6th.

~**School Lunch Hero Day** is Friday, May 7th.

- Expressions of gratitude are most welcomed! A sincere, handwritten note of thanks is pure gold to an educator (email works, too). Want to send a special teacher, administrator, nurse, or school nutrition professional a note of gratitude? Here are the mailing addresses of all three schools:

~**Mitchell Primary School**, 7 School Lane, Kittery Point, ME. 03905

~**Shapleigh School**, 43 Stevenson Road, Kittery, ME. 03904

~**Traip Academy**, 12 Williams Avenue, Kittery, ME. 03904

That's all for this week. The **Health Advisory System re-classification** is scheduled for next Friday. I'll update you then. For now, York County remains in a 'green' H.A.S. classification. It's going to be a beautiful weekend!

Sincerely,



Eric Waddell  
Superintendent of Schools