

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

Eric F. Waddell • Superintendent of Schools • ewaddell@kitteryschools.com • (207) 475-1334

June 6, 2021

Good evening...

The next few days will be warm ones for sure. Remember to include a water bottle in your student's backpack. We also encourage light, cool (but school-appropriate!) clothing.

Although the Maine CDC and Maine Dept. of Education adjusted the outdoor guidance for masks and distancing on May 14th, we in the Kittery School District elected to maintain our outdoor mask-wearing and distancing protocols for the final month of school out of an abundance of caution.

However, the summer-like weather these next few days calls for an abrupt pivot on these protocols. Effective immediately, the Kittery School District will align with the May 14th State of Maine guidance for outdoor activities in schools. Specifically, the guidance encourages schools to *"hold classes and activities outside whenever possible. Masks and physical distancing are not required for outdoor classes."*

While we will continue to encourage physical distancing to the greatest extent possible, **we will not require masks outdoors for the final 7 days of school.** The CDC's rationale for this has been very clear; the risk to children outdoors is extremely low, and the risks of mask-wearing in warm weather and especially during physical exertion are far greater for children than the benefits of outdoor mask-wearing.

Families should discuss this with their students before school Monday morning and clarify family expectations as they relate to outdoor mask-wearing. **Indoor mask-wearing rules have not changed in Maine schools.**

I expect principals will provide our teachers with sound guidance about frequent outdoor breaks until this summer-like weather passes Tuesday afternoon. By Friday, the weather in our region looks downright cool!

Enjoy your evening!

Sincerely,



Eric Waddell
Superintendent of Schools