

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

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March 5, 2021

Dear Kittery School District Staff and Families...

Another week has passed, and if I'm to believe Meteorologist Todd Gutner from WCSH, the next seven days are looking warmer and snow-free. Am I jinxing us by suggesting that we have used our last snow day? Actually, now that I think about it, we have had snow days in April in the past...nevermind!

Maine's **Health Advisory System's** County re-classification is scheduled for next Friday, March 12th. In the meantime, York County maintains a 'green' H.A.S. classification. I'll share the reclassification update with you next Friday in my weekly communication.

There was quite a bit of excitement in Maine schools this week when Governor Mills announced that school staff, regardless of age, could be vaccinated immediately. That excitement took a bit of a confusing turn, however, until agencies could figure out exactly how this would happen. I met this morning with Maine CDC, DOE, and York County Emergency Management Agency officials, and the staff and I now have a better idea of how school staff will be vaccinated sooner rather than later.

The continued rollout of vaccines, the H.A.S. green classification in all Maine counties, and Governor Mills' announcement this morning about loosening up travel restrictions this spring and summer make me feel hopeful that 'normal' may be on the horizon (albeit faintly). What will the 2021 Commencement and other end-of-year ceremonies look like this spring? How about changes to phase 4 in our schools? The Leadership Team and I will keep you posted as details fall into place.

In the meantime, let me highlight a few items from this week:

- The Dept. of Education is conducting a **survey statewide** in an effort to increase student participation in the National School Lunch Program. Would you consider taking the survey? The link is [here](#).
- The School Committee is seeking prospects for the **SRO Task Force**, part of the SRO Three-Year Plan that they adopted last summer. The invitation is attached. The process calls for submission of a letter of interest and a resume. Perhaps the term 'resume' is overstated. The School Committee wants to ensure that the Task Force represents a balance of ideas, perspectives, and backgrounds. Therefore, if you're worried that you haven't updated your resume in 20 years (or that you don't even have one!), simply submit some general information about yourself and your background/experiences with your letter of interest. **It's due next Friday, March 12th.**
- Families are reminded that it is good practice to occasionally check in with **Ride 360** and confirm their student's bus information. Bus routes and assignments may change as students enroll in school, or as

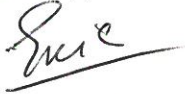
families move out of District. Attached are the directions for easy sign up. Mrs. Embry nembry@kitteryschools.com is always happy to help if you have trouble retrieving the information.

- Dates/times/locations for **Meals 4 Kids & Mobile Markets** through Gather have been announced. The flyer is attached. The Kittery site is located at Post Office Square on March 10th and March 24th this month, both from noon to 1:30 PM.
- Are you aware that **Sweetser** offers **school-based mental health services** in our three District schools? Their flyer is attached. If you have questions, you can reach out to any school counselor or school nurse. These are stressful times for our students; Sweetser school-based services may be a viable option to ensure that your students are getting the help they need.

That's all for now. Enjoy your weekend, and I'll reconnect with you next Friday, March 12th, which is a staff development day, so start working on that chores list for your kiddo. There is nothing like a day of hard work to get the cobwebs out!

Take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric Waddell
Superintendent of Schools