

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

Excellence and Equity For All Children

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SUPERINTENDENT

Equal Opportunity Employer

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MARK A. FRIEDMAN
School Business Administrator

August 13, 2021

Dear Families,

The summer is slipping away, and as always, time moves too quickly. I hope you have had a chance to enjoy the summer break. We have been using the time to prepare the schools for the return of our students. **All students will be returning to full-time, in-person school this fall.** The district is looking forward to a positive and enriching school year for all.

An important piece of our preparation has been a meeting with our Health and Safety Advisory Committee to discuss the current COVID-19 situation. We want to ensure going into the school year that we implement safety measures that are in the best interest of our students, staff, and the Island community. The School Committee has reviewed the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and our Health and Safety Advisory Committee. Consequently, after careful consideration, it has been decided that the following safety measures will be in place for the coming school year:

- All staff and students, K-12, will be required to wear masks while inside a school building (except during mask breaks and lunch) and while on school transportation.
- Students and staff will be physically distanced as much as reasonably feasible while still allowing for all students to be fully in person.
- Schools will maintain ventilation upgrades from this past year.
- Staff and students will continue hand hygiene practices.
- Students and staff are required to stay home when sick.

The school district will explore COVID-19 surveillance testing opportunities through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for this coming school year. More information will be shared as it becomes available. Over the coming weeks, the district's Health and Safety Advisory Committee will continue to meet to discuss recent developments and possible adjustments to our plan.

We will continue this year to hold weekly community forums to update families and allow for questions. Our first forum is scheduled for Tuesday, August 24th at 5:00 p.m. We will be sending out the Zoom meeting link through our School Messenger system. The link will also be available on the school district's website.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Matthew D'Andrea, LP.D.