



OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 23, 2021

Dear Old Colony Community,

We hope this message finds you and your families well. Recent weeks have proven promising as we appear to be moving in an extremely positive direction. All five of our sending communities are out of the “red zone” and the guidance we are receiving relative to COVID-19 restrictions appear to support a calculated return to relative normalcy. We are aware that our Old Colony families continue to experience the pandemic in varying levels and remain sensitive to the individualized situation of each familial unit. Please reach out to any member of our administrative team if you are in need of support or assistance of any kind. We will do our best to direct you to the appropriate contact or resources. We appreciate the incredible level of support we have received from our Old Colony Community during the past year and assure you that our commitment continues to strengthen beyond the textbook and curriculum-based activities.

Department of Elementary & Secondary Education COVID-19 Restriction Updates

On Monday, May 17, 2021 Governor Baker held a press conference to announce the lifting of some COVID-19 related restrictions & their corresponding effective dates. This was welcome news for many of us. School districts throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are expected to follow the guidance provided by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE). Some requirements differ from those released by the CDC and state officials for the general public. On Wednesday, May 19, 2021, DESE Commissioner Jeffery Riley conducted a District Leaders' Conference Call and explained that the lifted restrictions released by DESE on Monday, May 17, 2021 remained in place, however, there were no further protocol limitations to report at that time. Commissioner Riley did add the caveat that further information may be forthcoming. Should additional details regarding further reductions to COVID-19 mitigation practices be released by DESE, Old Colony will share this important information with all stakeholders in a timely manner.

Athletics Updates from the MIAA

The announcement by Governor Baker and the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) on May 17, 2021 regarding the removal of mandatory masks/facial coverings was reviewed and discussed by the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee (SMC) Monday afternoon. The SMC voted **unanimously to recommend the approval of the May 17, 2021 EEA guidelines effective May 18, 2021**. You may view the updated EEA guidelines [HERE](#).

To clarify, this means:

- Athletes on spring teams in active play outdoors **are not required** to wear a mask/facial covering.
- Athletes when they are on the bench or in a dugout **are not required** to wear a mask/facial covering.
- Athletes in low-risk sports when indoors where a distance of at least 14 feet or more is consistently maintained between each participant, **are not required** to wear a mask/ facial covering.
- Spectators and chaperones, coaches, staff, referees, umpires and other officials who can social distance while outdoors, **are not required** to wear a mask/face covering.
- Visitors, spectators, volunteers, and staff while indoors **are required** to wear mask/facial covering.
- All athletes participating in high school sports are considered youth and fall under youth guidelines.

Graduation Updates for the Class of 2021

On May 19, 2021 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released changes to K12 Graduation Ceremony Guidance. This guidance is identified below. We are enthusiastic to have the opportunity to return to a more traditional outdoor graduation ceremony for the Class of 2021. Additional information has been sent to families.

- When indoors, students must wear masks and maintain 6' of distance
- When outdoors, students are not required to wear masks, and students should distance as feasible
- When indoors, attendees and staff must wear masks and maintain 6' of distance from individuals not in their household.
- Effective May 29, for outdoor graduations only, attendees and staff are not required to wear masks and are encouraged to distance from individuals not in their household as feasible. Attendees are encouraged to wear face coverings if they are not vaccinated.
- Permits handing graduates their diploma and awards
- Graduation facilities only need to clean high touch surfaces and shared objects once per day, excluding certain circumstances¹

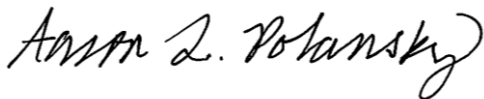
Summer Discovery for Grades 5-8

We are excited to offer our 4th Annual 5-day Summer Discovery Experiences from July 26-30, 2021. We offer half day and full day options. Get "Revved up" as you learn with your own issued tool kit in Intro to Automotive; put your technology away and enjoy the outdoors as you compete in a variety of Sports Camps; explore the fields of Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, TV & Media, Drawing, Welding, and more. Tap into your creativity and passions. Connect, create, and inspire!

Most morning and afternoon sessions are offered for students entering grade 5-8. To learn more about session descriptions or to purchase tickets, please visit the [following link](#). We encourage participants to mix and match morning (AM) and afternoon (PM) sessions. Families are responsible for their own transportation. Full-day participants are invited to stay with us for a supervised lunch between 11:30 and 12:00. Students attending both sessions are responsible for bringing their own lunch. Lunch will take place in our cafeteria. Supervision will be provided. Summer Discovery instructors are members of the Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School staff.

We look forward to announcing additional opportunities for our Old Colony Community to learn, interact, and socialize over the summer months. Details will be shared as more information becomes available. We thank you for all you have done to strengthen our commitment to one another over what has proven to be one of the most challenging windows in the history of education. May the rest of your school year be filled with meaningful learning experiences, health, and plentiful reasons for celebration.

With Sincere Appreciation,



Aaron L. Polansky, Superintendent-Director
Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School