



# OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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September 30, 2021

Dear Old Colony Community,

We hope this correspondence finds you well and in good spirits as we welcome the fall weather and the month of October. Over the course of the past week we have experienced some incredible wins within our Old Colony community.

### **First Annual Fall Festival**

Special thanks to our Old Colony PTO and all of the contributors who made our first Annual Fall Festival a tremendous success. On Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> we had a wonderful showing of community at the outdoor event. One of our parents commented on what a good day it was. We smiled at the use of the word “good” as it was a huge understatement. We are touched and grateful for the support shown by our Old Colony community.

### **Massachusetts Teacher Retention**

The state of Massachusetts recently published teacher retention rates. Old Colony was 8<sup>th</sup> in the state for teacher retention and larger in size than the seven (7) schools that preceded us on the list. This is a testament to our teachers and our community. Our community consists of thoughtful individuals who care deeply for one another. Thank you for making Old Colony such a special place for our staff to work.

### **PSAT: October 13, 2021**

Vocation education has evolved dramatically in recent years. Old Colony has expanded our offerings to include Advanced Placement and Early College courses. Many of our students earn articulated college credit for their high school coursework and a majority of students earn industry-recognized credentials as part of their program of study with access to “Earn While You Learn” opportunities through our Cooperative Employment Programs available to them in their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year. We are proud to report that with all of these added values, we continue to see our students aspire for excellence. 100% of our sophomore class and 132 members of our junior class have registered to take the PSAT on October 13, 2021. When we take advantage of opportunities availed, doors open. We want our students to have options when it is time for decisions to be made. Our job is to present challenges that expand a student’s capacity. Our students have accepted this challenge in every facet of our offerings.

### **Old Colony Educational Foundation: Night to Remember Gala**

Join us on Friday, November 5, 2021 at the Century House in Acushnet at 6:30 p.m. for our Annual Night to Remember as we honor our next three (3) inductees to the Old Colony Wall of Achievement. Every year we celebrate the success of Old Colony graduates, the instructors who have contributed, and the community that comes together to connect, create, and inspire. Now more than ever, we all deserve a “Night to Remember”. We look forward to celebrating with you over music, silent auctions, and dinner. Tickets and biographies of our inductees are available at the [following link](#).

## **Mask Updates**

Department of Elementary & Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley held a conference call with all Massachusetts school district leaders on Monday, September 27, 2021. During this meeting, Commissioner Riley made the following two important announcements:

1. The Commissioner is extending the mask requirement through at least November 1, 2021.
2. As of October 15, 2021, if a school demonstrates a vaccination rate of 80 percent or more of all students and staff in the school through an attestation form submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), then vaccinated individuals in that school would no longer be subject to the mask requirement.

DESE will continue to work with medical experts and state health officials to review and consider additional metrics to determine when individuals in schools would no longer be subject to the mask requirement.

We strongly encourage all Old Colony families & staff to please submit student and staff proof of vaccination as soon as possible if you have not already done so. This information will better inform our decisions as to vaccination status as the October 15, 2021 date approaches. A copy of the Commissioner's announcements relative to the extension of the mask requirement and policy on vaccination rate threshold are included in the links below:

- [DESE Extension of Mask Requirement](#)
- [DESE Policy on Vaccination Rate Threshold](#)

## **College Financing Seminar**

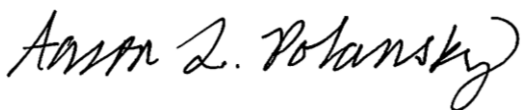
The Old Colony Guidance Department will be hosting a Financial Aid evening sponsored through Massachusetts Educational

Financing Authority (MEFA). This seminar will be presented by Beth Connelly-Sylvia, who will provide information and clarity on the entire college financial aid application process. Parents and students will learn about financial aid applications and types of financial aid, the factors that determine aid eligibility, how colleges determine the amount of aid to offer, and the details of financial aid offers.

This seminar is highly recommended for parents of juniors and seniors. Our seminar will be held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 beginning at 6:00 PM in the cafeteria. Please RSVP @ (508)763-8011 ext 231 with your name, your student's name, and phone number.

We thank you for your continued support of our Old Colony Community and wish you a wonderful Fall Season as we venture into the month of October.

Sincerely,



Aaron L. Polansky, Superintendent-Director