



OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
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November 10, 2021

Dear Old Colony Community,

We hope this letter finds you healthy and in good spirits as the weather begins to change and we welcome the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday. The past two years have presented us with our share of challenges and obstacles. We continue to process the plethora of information shared by the Department of Elementary of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state while working to maintain a supportive environment for students and staff. The following information is offered as an update with the most recent information available specific to the pandemic.

- A total of 14 positive cases have been reported to our Nurses' Office since the start of school in late August of 2021.
- Consistent with the authority provided by the Board of Education, and after consulting with medical experts and state officials, the Commissioner has extended the mask requirement through at least January 15, 2022. The Department will continue to work with medical experts and health officials to evaluate the mask requirement beyond January 15.
- Old Colony is currently offering the Test and Stay program to minimize interruption to learning loss. Only students who have received parental permission are permitted to participated in the Test and Stay program. Additional information is available through our Nurses' Office.
- The Town of Rochester will be offering vaccination clinics for those interested on the following dates:

11/29/21 for 5-11 year olds
11/30/21 for 12+
12/16/21 boosters for 12+

To book your appointment, simply click on the date of interest at the [following link](#). If people need help booking an appointment, please feel free to contact Connie Dolan directly at the Rochester Board of Health at (508) 763-5421 x1 or send her an email at cdolan@townofrochester.com with your name and phone number and she will call you back. We thank Connie and the Rochester Board of Health for their incredible show of support and partnership.

For an extended period of time (almost two whole years), one thing has continued to ring true: Our Old Colony students, staff, and community continue to be at the forefront of our efforts, our focus, and our thoughts. Thank you for taking the time to focus beyond self and to ensure the needs of an entire community are continuously at the forefront of your efforts.

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, we have much to be grateful for. While there may be tangible items we appreciate, the people within our community are among the greatest gift here at Old Colony. We continue to extend our appreciation for your support of our efforts. We continue to work to the best of our ability to support your students both inside and outside the classroom. If your family is in need of support to provide a Thanksgiving meal during the Thanksgiving Holiday, please reach out to Danielle Craig, Assistant to the Principal at dcraig@OldColony.info for more information about how we can assist.

We are proud of the efforts of our students and staff who continue to live up to our motto of *Connect. Create. Inspire.*

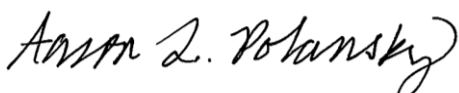
- On Friday, November 19th our Culinary Arts Program will be catering the Annual Thanksgiving event that takes place at our Rochester Council On Aging. The Old Colony Culinary Arts Program has been supporting this event for approximately two decades.
- On Friday, December 3rd Old Colony will be running our [Winter Wonderland Holiday Extravaganza](#) from 5:00-7:00 PM to help support those in need. Come meet Santa, engage in games and activities, a 50/50 raffle, and enjoy hot chocolate and sweet treats. We will be accepting non-perishable food items as part of the festivities. All food collected will be donated to local food banks.
- On Tuesday, December 14th our National Honor Society will be visiting two P.A.C.E. Head Start locations in New Bedford to deliver gift bags to about 175 youth. Holiday gift bags include hats and mittens, toothbrush/toothpaste, and a small toy. Our National Honor Society students take great pride in dressing up in festive attire while interacting with younger students as part of this mentoring opportunity.

There is no greater gift than to elevate others. In this spirit, we conduct our Alumni Spotlight Program every school year, and will kick off our 2021-2022 campaign next week. Our Alumni Spotlight initiative was created to celebrate the success of our Old Colony graduates while sharing with prospective students and their families the multitude of benefits that Old Colony has to offer. If you know of a successful Old Colony graduate, please ask him/her to consider completing the information at the [following link](#). Completed forms should be forwarded with a photo to apolansky@OldColony.us. Our graduates have taken unique paths to successful futures. Each story has the potential to resonate with our current students and prospective attendees.

Highlighted graduates will be considered for nomination to our Wall of Achievement. Our most recent Wall of Achievement inductees include Dr. Kristen Lee, Mr. Marcus Ashley III, and Mr. Fred Underhill. These three individuals were recognized at the Annual Night to Remember Gala sponsored by the Old Colony Educational Foundation on November 5, 2021.

We thank you for all you do to make our Old Colony Community what it is, day in and day out. Please reach out if we can be of support as we make our way into the Holiday Season.

With Gratitude,



Aaron L. Polansky, Superintendent-Director