



June 26, 2020

Dear Old Colony Community,

We would like to thank you for your continued partnership during the past three-plus months. The idea of forecasting a definitive future during these fluid times, has been and will continue to be, a task filled with contingencies based upon uncertainty. Yesterday, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released the Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance. Over the course of the next month, Old Colony will begin to assemble three separate plans:

- A plan based on a full return to in-person learning with modifications and restrictions
- A plan based on a fully remote learning model
- A plan based on a hybrid of the models where students would alternate between the two

All school districts throughout the Commonwealth are being asked to prepare for all 3 scenarios should the need arise to move between scenarios based on medical data at any given time. The Old Colony District will be spending the next few weeks unpacking the guidance and will begin the planning process for the fall in the weeks that follow. We ask for your patience as conditions continue to evolve and the process is iterative. Please know that we will be seeking the input of our stakeholders and sharing information on a consistent basis.

Current guidance is based upon the latest medical research and data pertaining to COVID-19 transmission, prevention, and the high impact requirements for schools around social distancing, masks, hygiene, and maintaining the smallest cohorts of students as possible. [The full guidance released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education can be found at this link.](#) The following are some key components of the guidance document:

- Current medical research supports a safe in-person return to school - with preventive measures in place - as infection and transmission rates are lower for children than adults.
- Preventive measures include masks/face coverings, physical distancing, hand washing, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.
- Masks/face coverings will be required for all students in Grade 2 and above and for all adults.
- Based upon current medical research, and in conjunction with other preventive measures, a minimum physical distance of 3 feet has been established.

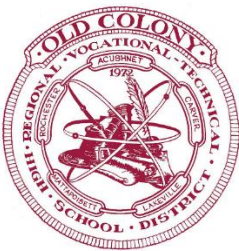
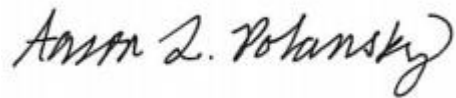
Please note that the Old Colony District has invested in a remote learning platform to assist our academic staff with the delivery of a remote or hybrid model implementation. The platform will ease the ability of our academic teachers to deliver curriculum in a differentiated manner, so that students who are looking for challenges may proceed, while students who may need to review will have access to additional resources for remediation purposes.

We thank you for the feedback provided in our initial round of surveys to families. We recognize and appreciate the strong desire voiced by our population for the return to an in-person model for vocational coursework and our high-needs students, including students with disabilities, who may require more focused supports. Please note that the absence of an "in person" model is less than ideal for all learning environments. We understand the desire for prioritization of access to vocational coursework and in-person delivery models for high needs students in the event of a hybrid return.

We will continue to include our families in the planning process through surveys and stakeholder meetings. We will be communicating these opportunities in later correspondence and surveys for those interested in offering feedback. We thank you for your continued patience, insights, and understanding as we navigate the evolution of our situation and prepare for the school year ahead. We expect further guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the weeks to come.

Wishing you well-deserved relaxation during the months of July and August.

Sincerely,



Aaron L. Polansky

Superintendent-Director

Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School

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