



OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 11, 2021

Dear Old Colony Families,

We are excited to kick-off the 2021-2022 school year and eagerly anticipate the arrival of staff and students at the end of the month. On Monday, August 30th our teaching staff will return to school in preparation for the arrival of students on Tuesday, August 31st. We will welcome our new students and their families on August 24th and 25th as part of our Freshman Academy. Additional information for the Freshman Academy will be sent under separate cover.

Since March of 2020, our school community has shown tremendous strength and resolve as we've made our way through the challenges of unanticipated obstacles and frequent updates to regulatory guidance outlined by state and national authorities. To that end, we continue to navigate the changing landscape of the pandemic associated with the "Delta" variant.

Unfortunately, the pandemic is still with us, and we will face continued challenges in the upcoming school year. As we have reiterated in past correspondence, we are acutely aware that difficult decisions will not please everyone. Our decisions moving forward are informed by a multitude of guidance. Health and safety remain the top priority within our Old Colony Community. Guidance statements from a number of different regulatory agencies are provided below:

- [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Center for Disease Controls – Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention on Public Transportation](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Fall 2021 Covid-19 Guidance](#)

There may be different approaches to health and safety in area public school districts. At Old Colony, we will finalize decisions relative to mask-wearing later this month. It is currently too early to finalize decisions prior to additional guidance that may be released as the start to the school year approaches. As we prepare to maximize safety for the school year ahead, we are pleased to share that our colleagues from the Freetown-Lakeville School have extended an invitation for families from our Old Colony Community to access vaccination clinics scheduled on August 18th and September 8th from 3-6 pm in the Apponequet Gymnasium.

Please keep the following dates in mind as the end of August approaches.

August 24, 2021	New Student Induction	8:30am - 12:00pm
August 25, 2021	New Student Induction	8:30am - 12:00pm
August 30, 2021	First Day for Staff	
August 31, 2021	First Day for Students	
September 1, 2021	PTO Meeting	6:00pm - 7:00pm
September 3, 2021	No School	
September 6, 2021	No School	
September 25, 2021	<u>First Annual Fall Family Festival</u>	11:00am - 2:00pm

Thank you for your continued partnership in the educational process. We look forward to expanded opportunities for ongoing conversation during the year ahead. We take great pride in the education of your student and look forward to a wonderful school year. We would like to remind families that **the school day begins at 7:40 a.m. and ends at 2:21 p.m.** Bus schedules will be shared to the Old Colony website by August 27th. Any questions relative to transportation can be directed to Mrs. Maria Szymanski at (508) 763-8011 ext. 111 or via email at mszymanski@oldcolony.info.

Crystal Andrade is our School Nutrition Director. She will provide a letter to parents and updates to our [cafeteria page](#) this Friday, August 13, 2021 by 10:00am. Changes or updates will be communicated weekly on Friday's by 10:00am. Any questions you may have relative to food service can be emailed to candrade@oldcolony.info.

The pandemic will continue to challenge us, but there is much to look forward to this upcoming school year. Old Colony is an incredible community, and I feel blessed to work with our students and staff as we plan collaboratively for a successful journey in 2021-2022. We look forward to welcoming you all back later this month, and hope you enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron L. Polansky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'A'.

Aaron L. Polansky
Superintendent-Director