



OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
476 North Avenue, Rochester, Massachusetts 02770-1899
Telephone: 508-763-8011 • Fax: 508-763-9821



May 17, 2022

Dear Old Colony Community,

On Sunday afternoon and evening, we hosted our 16th Annual Old Colony Golf Tournament. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this event. This celebration often represents the “beginning of the end” to our school year and is followed by a number of festivities that bring us to the finish line in mid to late June. As we approach graduation and summer vacation, I am sitting in my office and reflecting upon the year, and quite honestly school years, that we have recently experienced.

The past year seemed to move faster than years prior. August to January felt like a different school year than February to current day. For the first time in our lifetimes, we interrupted day to day structure with a need to adapt for a prolonged time and on an expansive scale. We asked students and families; staff and families; and the world (quite frankly) to stop what they were doing and pivot. The return to structure in late January was challenging for many, and understandably so. These challenges continue to linger, and will for some time.

The world does not stand still and time waits for no one. A great deal has happened in this short window of three years. These COVID-related experiences have given us much to think about. Many of us have reprioritized; some out of the need to do so, and others out of a desire for clarity of mind. One thing has remained constant. We go to where the love is served. Our students and families are at the forefront of our efforts and we want nothing more than to ensure a passion for learning and reignite the power of connection. Our efforts around teaching and learning are not limited to the pages of a book or the words upon a screen. We are dedicated to creating a culture where we discuss the world beyond our walls and prepare our students for the realities that lie ahead.

On Sunday evening we were faced with the inexplicable acts of violence reported from the Buffalo community and soon thereafter, Laguna Woods, California. It is with far too much frequency that we see countless examples of unnecessary violence, white extremist ideology, and a divide throughout communities, and even around the world. Many of our students, and even staff members, may be looking to us for a better understanding of these egregious acts. Facing History has shared [the following resource](#) that you may find useful in guiding conversation. The events experienced over the course of the weekend reinforce the importance of creating a school culture where we come to value and appreciate the human differences we share with one another.

In a world where many believe that political affiliation is indicative of every other belief, or that you if you believe in “x” then “y” must also be true; this is simply not so. There is beauty in our differences, and our belief systems should not all be the same. There is much to be learned from the multiple perspectives that exist within a single community, so long as our respect for one another is maintained in the interactions that take place.

As we approach the weeks ahead and look to maximize our time together in the months of May and June, we thank you for your continued commitment to supporting the “whole student” and our Old Colony School Community. We accomplished much in this past school year and still have much distance to cover. Education is the key to overcoming stagnation and connection makes education a journey worth taking. We thank you for your continued support of our efforts and look forward to a successful remainder of the school year.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aaron L. Polansky".

Aaron L. Polansky
Superintendent-Director