



**Mildred H. Aitken
Elementary School
165 Newman Avenue
Seekonk, MA 02771
(508) 336-5230**

JOHN HAIDEMENOS, JR.
Principal

DAVID GRAF
Assistant Principal

October 8, 2021



Hello Aitken families!

We are now in the month of October and the students are doing a great job! They have well established routines and we feel a real sense of normality in school. We appreciate how hard our students are working and are proud of them. We hope you continue to be healthy. Have a great month!

Just a reminder that there is no school on Monday, October 11, 2021 to commemorate Columbus Day.

NEW

Superintendent Dr. Rich Drolet would like to share an update regarding the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) mask mandate for the current school year.

On Monday, Sept. 27, after consulting with medical experts and state health officials, DESE Commissioner Jeffrey Riley announced that the state will extend the school mask

The Seekonk Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Seekonk Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, gender identity, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or homelessness and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

mandate through **at least Nov. 1**. The previous mask mandate, issued Aug. 25, had put into place a mask mandate until Oct. 1.

Under the state's mask mandate, all K-12 students, educators and staff are required to wear a mask while in schools through Nov. 1 to continue to ensure the health and safety of students and staff, and to provide time for more students and educators to get vaccinated. School visitors will also continue to be required to wear masks during this time.

With the updated mandate, if a school demonstrates a vaccination rate of 80% or more of all students and staff by Oct. 15, then vaccinated individuals in that school would no longer be subject to the mask requirement. In alignment with statewide guidance, unvaccinated students and staff would be required to continue wearing masks.

Whether or not a school or district fulfills the 80% vaccination designation, it is a local decision to be made by school and district leaders in consultation with local health officials.

According to DESE, masks may be removed indoors or other mitigation strategies may be put into place when necessary for students to participate in elective classes, such as band. Additionally, masks are required for any sports-related activity for student-athletes and coaches when indoors, in alignment with guidance provided by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA).

Parents and guardians should note that separate from DESE's mask mandate, under the Department of Public Health's mask advisory, students riding any district bus or visiting any of the district's health offices must continue to wear masks at all times while in these settings.

Reminder: Please remember to label any personal items that come to school including, but not limited to: water bottles, lunchboxes, book bags and coats. When these items are labeled, it is much easier for us to identify the owner of the item. Thank you!

The Seekonk Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Seekonk Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, gender identity, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or homelessness and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES



AITKEN SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Please find below the link to the Aitken School Calendar with PTO and other school events:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=Y180dHZwMjVjaGE3dXBnZ3NodjE1MGVlanRtOEBncm91cC5jYWxlbmRhci5nb29nbGUuY29t>



FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

*The **POLISHED** dental program will be here on Wednesday, October 13th for those students who are participating in the program.*

*Polished may provide the following services;
dental hygiene evaluations, dental cleanings, fluoride varnish treatments, sealants and health education.*

If you haven't already signed up but would like for your child to participate, please ask the nurse for a sign-up packet.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The Seekonk Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Seekonk Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, gender identity, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or homelessness and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Daily COVID-19 Symptom Checklist

Please continue to monitor your child daily for the following symptoms:

- **Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills**
- **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Muscle aches or body aches**
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea when in combination with other symptoms
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms

If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms, please **do not** send them to school and contact their Primary Care Physician.

Students will need to get a Covid-19 PCR test before returning to school if they have the above symptoms.

If a PCR test is not taken, a doctor's note stating an alternative diagnosis will need to be provided in order for students to return to school.

Without a negative test result or doctor's note, students will need to stay home for 10 days starting from the first day of symptom onset.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Unvaccinated** individuals **AND** any close contacts presenting with these symptoms should follow testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Vaccinated** individuals who are not close contacts should follow the testing and quarantine response protocols if they are experiencing symptoms in **bold**. These individuals may also seek clinical guidance to assess the need for PCR testing if they have other symptoms on this list.

The Seekonk Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Seekonk Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, gender identity, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or homelessness and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

For further information about our Covid-19 guidelines, please visit the Seekonk Public Schools website, scroll down to Quick Links: "School Nurses' website."

Here you will find;

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Covid -19 guidelines and protocols
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MRoY-TZdcFf0N4z0PzoN_EL3-BjP1gSs/view

Protocol Flowchart

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Gfo4g2jvq07pdJBH-lo_w3o9qJi4MUf4/view

Daily Symptom Checklist

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15ANrwQQVdmRDyFExWDeRreEP5yO_mRKJwwrzRk0FeCk/edit

Please contact your school nurse with any questions.

Jessica Devane, RN, BSN
Mildred H. Aitken Elementary School
devanej@seekonkschools.org
508-336-5230

COVID TEST CONSENT FORM:

Families received a consent form on the first day of school to participate in the "Test and Stay" program which was communicated to families by Superintendent Drolet on August 31st. Please return this form to the school if you give consent for your child to participate in the testing program (if a minor symptom is reported to the nurse's office in school or is unvaccinated and is identified as a close contact). In addition, I have included a link to access and complete the "Test and Stay" consent forms online. <https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma> Parents that have already turned in a hard copy of the consent form do not need to complete the online form.

The Seekonk Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Seekonk Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, gender identity, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or homelessness and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

all ages, all families

Join us for Aitken PTO
Family Bingo Night

Friday 10/8
6:00 - 7:00pm
Aitken Cafeteria

Free family fun, but please bring a
minimum of 1 canned food
donation per person. All donations
will 100% benefit Doorways Food
Pantry of Seekonk.

Come join the fun!

pageborders.org

The Seekonk Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Seekonk Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, gender identity, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or homelessness and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Just a reminder that masks must be worn when indoors at all times during school events.

SOCKTOBER



DID YOU KNOW THAT THE MOST REQUESTED ITEM AT A HOMELESS SHELTER IS SOCKS?

FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF OCTOBER, AITKEN SCHOOL WILL COLLECT SOCKS TO DONATE TO THE HOMELESS SHELTERS.

THE CLASS THAT BRINGS IN THE MOST UNUSED SOCKS, BY OCTOBER 27TH, WILL GET TO HAVE A SPECIAL REWARD!

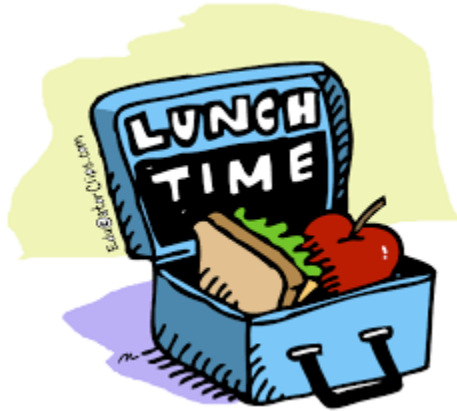
The Seekonk Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Seekonk Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, gender identity, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or homelessness and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

BRING IN THOSE NEW SOCKS!!!

CREATED BY: 5TH GRADE PRESIDENTS (STUDENT COUNCIL)



BREAKFAST AND LUNCHES:

Just a reminder that breakfast and lunches are still free for all students.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Haidemenos

Mr. Graf

The Seekonk Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Seekonk Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, gender identity, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or homelessness and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES