



AITKEN WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

November 5, 2021

Hello Aitken Families!

We hope you had a great week!

Dear Aitken Families.

It is with mixed emotions that I announce my retirement at the end of this December. Over the last 3 1/2 years, it has been my honor, pleasure, and privilege to serve this outstanding school community. I have enjoyed meeting and talking with you, either before school as you dropped off your children, or after school as you picked them up. Most especially, my fondest moments were interacting with your children everyday. As I come into my 40th year in education, I reflect on my experiences and I can say with certainty that my time at Aitken as principal, is one of the highlights of my career. I am looking forward to spending more time with my family, playing piano, and writing music. I wish all of you the very best and I know my successor will continue to move Aitken forward.

Beginning January 2, 2022, Mr. Graf will be the interim principal and the district will hire an interim assistant principal for the remainder of this school year.

Fondly,

John Haidemenos



Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night (November 6th).



On Wednesday, November 10th, we will have an early dismissal for students at 12:45. Parent-teacher conferences that were initially scheduled for October 27th, will now take place on November 10th during the same time slot that parents had originally scheduled with the classroom teacher.



Reminder:

For the safety of our students and staff, we ask that if you arrive prior to the 3:05 dismissal time to pick up your child, please wait until that time to walk into the backyard of the school. There are still students at recess until that time. Thank you.



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=Y180dHZwMjVjaGE3dXBnZ3NodjE1MGVlanRtOEbnm91cC5jYWxlbmRhci5nb29nbGUuY29t>



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 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

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.

Our CIA's or Curriculum Instructional and Assessment Leaders at Aitken, continue to meet on an on-going basis to discuss potential learning loss due to the pandemic. Discussions center around how to best support students and how to help reduce learning gaps.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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- 11/10/2021 is Parent-Teacher Conferences (make-up). Students will be dismissed at 12:45. There will be no PM Pre-K on this date.
- 11/10/2021 The next Seekonk Public Schools SEPAC meeting @ 6:30pm in the Hurley MS Library.
- 11/11/2021 is Veteran's Day. There will be no school on this date.



AITKEN TO KNOW

Here is the link to the October Aitken to Know Newsletter (November's will be released soon):

<https://sites.google.com/view/aitken-to-know/home>



For the safety of our students, if you bring your dog with you when dropping off or picking up your child, please try to wait on the side of the fence away from the grassy areas (driveway side) or at the very least, keep your dog close to you to avoid any potential for injury. Thank you.



Seekonk Special
Education Parent
Advisory Council
(SEPAC)

Wed Nov 10, 2021
6:30-7:30pm

Hurley Middle School
in the Library

Together we'll learn about community
resources & educational support!



FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Health Screenings will begin in November and continue throughout the school year. In order to ensure the student's privacy, the results will not be disclosed to the student. You will be notified in writing if there are any problems or concerns.

If you would like your child to opt out of the screenings, please inform me in writing (a note or email to devanej@seekonkschools.org) by Friday, October 29th.

As mandated by Massachusetts state law, the following screenings will be conducted;

Vision and hearing will be done in all grades K-5

Height, weight, and BMI for grades 1 and 4

Postural (aka scoliosis) screening for students in grade 5

Daily COVID-19 Symptom Checklist

Please monitor your child daily for the following symptoms:

COVID-19 symptoms list:

- **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.

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.

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-TZdcFf0N4z0PzoNEL3-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
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508-336-5230



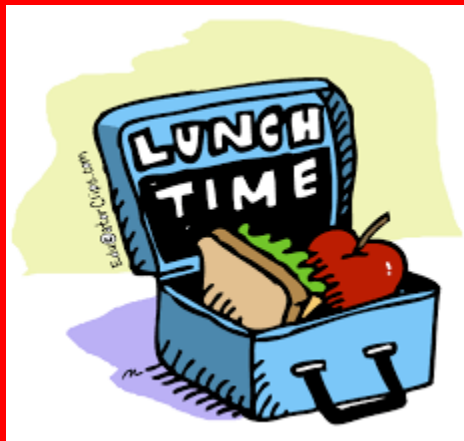
COVID TEST CONSENT FORM:

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.



Follow Aitken Elementary School on Twitter:
[@AES_Elementary](https://twitter.com/AES_Elementary)



BREAKFAST AND LUNCHES:

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



We would like to thank our Aitken families for attending the parent-teacher conferences on October 28th! School and family collaboration is the key to a successful student!

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Haidemenos

Mr. Graf