

JFK Weekly Newsletter

Friday, March 11, 2022 Sara Raabe, JFK Principal

Parent Teacher Conferences

JFK Spring Parent Teacher Conferences will be **in person** on March 31, 2022 and April 1, 2022. Teachers sent home a conference request sheet last week. Please be sure to fill this out and return it to your student's teacher so they can assign a time that works for your family for the in person spring conference.

Updates to WSD Masking Requirements

Last week Kevin Dirth, WSD Interim Superintendent and the WSD COVID Response Team sent out a communication with Updates to WSD Masking Requirements. On March 3rd state officials and health experts announced that because of lower COVID rates, effective vaccines and treatments, and reduced strain on the healthcare system, Vermont will transition to an **endemic** approach to managing COVID-19. These changes will be the same for all Vermonters, including students and staff in Vermont schools. Here's what to expect moving forward in our district:

- Beginning March 14 masks will be optional for everyone K-12 on the WSD campus and on school-provided transportation regardless of their vaccination status.
- This is a shift from [our previous message](#) about optional masking being considered once our schools had an 80% student vaccination rate. This shift is based on guidance from [The Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) assessment of community COVID levels](#) and follows state-wide Vermont recommendations.
- We want our students, families, and staff to know how important it is to respect everyone's personal choice to wear or not wear a mask.
- Take-home antigen test kits and PCR surveillance testing will continue to be available for staff and students as long as these programs are supported by the state.
- The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) will be releasing changes that simplify isolation, quarantine and testing guidance. We will share more information on this once it's available.
- Our Head Start PK classes will still be requiring masks. This was decided by the Office of Head Start. Head Start is communicating directly with their families about masking requirements.

We know that changes to Vermont's COVID response will be felt differently by each member of our community. The WSD Leadership Team and school nurses are here to support students, families and

staff through these changes. Students and families can call the WSD COVID hotline (802-556-2243) with questions or concerns.

Please remember that one mitigating strategy that has not changed is the expectation that staff and students should not come to work while sick. Anyone with even mild COVID symptoms should not come to school, even if they test COVID negative.

As a community, we have been through many health and safety changes over the last two years. Thank you to everyone in our community for working together as we take care of each other and focus on what's best for our learning community.

Masking Work with Students

As a school district, we have had conversations with our students around the upcoming masking changes, personal choice, and respecting each other. Some classes have held circles to discuss the changes using a [Circle Script](#) created by Kayla Loving. Some classes have read a [social story](#) together. Some classes have watched [Nurse Liz's video](#) about the upcoming changes. Some classes have done all of these things, and others have done ones that felt appropriate for the students in their room. I encourage our families to look at these resources to help guide your discussions at home with your student(s). Feel free to email me if you cannot access the links to the resources so I can share them with you.

Important Dates

March 17, 2022

11:00am Early Dismissal

March 18, 2022

11:00am Early Dismissal

March 31, 2022

11:00am Early Dismissal

JFK Conferences

April 1, 2022

11:00am Early Dismissal

JFK Conferences




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