



*Our Mission . . .
Educate All
Students To Their
Full Potential*

Office of the Superintendent
Kirk Downing, Superintendent
Dr. Todd Maguire, Assistant Superintendent

Sizer Charter School Report Sharing

Included in your packet is the Sizer Charter School annual report. This report is information only for the school committee. Charter Schools who have Nashoba residents attending are required to submit an annual report to the school committee.

Covid Update

On Monday, October 11, 2021, the Covid-19 Data Dashboard was published on the NRSD web page. To repeat what I have described before, the dashboard is a collection of metrics to inform the community on positive case rates, vaccination rates, testing consent percentages, town infection rates, and school attendance. It is a tool that will guide us in making local decisions about when and where to pull back on covid related restrictions like masking. Currently, we are operating under a mask mandate from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education which is scheduled to expire on November 1, 2021. While it is possible the Commissioner, Jeff Riley, will extend the mandate past that date we need to be ready for the moment when the state mandate expires.

It is in the spirit of preparation that I am asking the school committee to take action tonight on extending the masking mandate for our schools in the event Commissioner Riley allows the state mandate to expire. In addition, I am asking the committee to authorize the superintendent to lift the mandate if a school meets the criteria of 80% vaccination rate, 70% consent for testing, and the approval of the Nashoba Boards of Health. Authorizing the superintendent to lift the mandate, will allow me to make school by school decisions based upon the conditions within a school and town as measured by the metrics I have described. I view this as the most agile pathway for responding safely to improving health conditions.

Pooled Testing

Lesa Breault-Gulbicki has been in contact with the program coordinator that has been assigned to our district for weekly covid testing. The program coordinator is developing the site team for the high school to conduct routine COVID safety/screening checks. Testing will be on Tuesdays during lunch periods. Our goal is to have this type of testing up and running by the end of the month as long as a full team is in place. The district continues symptomatic testing and test and stay, keeping our staff and students in school. We hope to have all schools up and running with weekly testing by December 1, 2021.

Portrait of a Graduate

We have contracted with [Batelle for Kids](#) to consult with our educators and community on the portrait of a graduate work. In November and December educators will participate in a workshop where they sort and prioritize the learning competencies that we hold as most essential to our core values. In January, school councils will lead community meetings in the same process. Using a data aggregator, we will generate six core competencies that our community feels are the essential learning competencies for our students. Identifying our portrait of a graduate competencies will be critical to aligning instructional practice, prioritizing staffing decisions, constructing the budget and so much more. I invite all of you to participate in your local school council meetings when they host a portrait of a graduate meeting in January.

Ann Marie Stoica, Director of Human Resources • Rob Frieswick, Director of Facilities
Joan DeAngelis, Director of Pupil Personnel Services • Tania Rich, Director of Athletics
Patricia Marone, Director of Business and Operations

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Website Update

Last week I learned that we are due for a website refresh. Good news, the refresh is included in the original contract and will come at no additional cost to the school system. We will come back to the committee with another website update at a future meeting.

Administrator handbook Update / Investigations Training (Ann marie Stoica)

The Administrative Handbook features a Crisis Response Flip Chart outlining proper immediate responses to a crisis. That includes responses to incidents on field trips, on bus and motor vehicle accidents, during natural disasters, and for medical emergencies. It sets out policies and procedures for life-threatening allergies, lockdowns and shelter in place. Some of the information included in the handbook is confidential and is intended for administrators' use only.

During this August's Administrative Retreat, Attorney Felicia Vasudevan from Murphy, Hesse, Toomey and Lehane trained the administrators on the nuts and bolts of conducting investigations. Investigation types covered by Attorney Vasudevan were both employee and student allegations in the areas of bullying, Title IX, discrimination and harassment, and general disciplinary matters.

Teaching and Learning Update (Dr. Todd Maguire)

On Friday October 15, 2021, a small visiting team from Nashoba had the opportunity to visit three model schools on the northshore as we continue our visioning work for our Feasibility study for the new high school building project. We had the opportunity to visit an elementary, middle and high school in Danvers and Beverly, MA to look at new and innovative spaces in preparation for our own educational vision ahead. Members from the faculty, community and School Building committee attended. We will be visiting several other schools in the coming months with participation from multiple stakeholders in the district.

The Teaching and Learning department and the administration welcomed Diane Houle from Renaissance Learning this past week to give an overview of Renaissance Learning's student learning platforms and resources as we look for new ways to track student academic progress and also assess essential skills. The company provides multiple platforms and learning assessment tools that work together to examine student learning, progress and track academic outcomes from year to year. We are excited to be piloting some of their math resources this year and will continue to explore ways we can best track and monitor student academic outcomes.

We are in the early planning stages of another Digital Safety evening for our communities. This fall, we will place our focus on our middle school learners, especially our sixth graders, who received their chromebooks for take home this fall. We will also update and inform parents on the applications we allow in the district with Google Suite, which coincides with new changes this year. As in the past, we will provide parents and students with updates on digital platforms, digital safety and parent resources for online safety and learning.

Mark your calendars, Friday March 18, 2022 is our annual day of District Professional Development. Our theme this year focuses on the intersection of social justice, equality and Universal Design for Learning. We will welcome multiple speakers, offer workshops and showcase the work of our students and faculty. We look forward to sharing our progress as the planning unfolds. We also anticipate returning to an in person model this year with virtual offerings as well. Stay tuned!

Be on the lookout for our next edition of *THE DOWNLOAD* where we will highlight our work, identify new and updated resources for students and teachers, and spotlight some of the work of our faculty.

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