

SAU 70



March 11, 2022

Dear Families and Staff,

Almost two years ago to the day we closed schools due to the COVID-19 Pandemic that was starting to emerge in the United States. Now two years later, based on the most recent data, we are moving from masks required to masks welcome in our facilities and on our buses. We understand that this may not be an easy transition. However, based on the most recent data regarding transmission rates, hospitalizations, numbers of cases and vaccination rates, the recommendations of our experts, as well as our work with the town of Hanover and Dartmouth College, we believe that we may safely begin to move in this direction. Please know that we continue to respect whatever decision individuals make regarding mask wearing. We know that many in our community will continue to wear masks. We want you to do what feels safest and best for you. We will also continue to monitor our data closely, and will pivot if we believe it is necessary, as we have done throughout the Pandemic.

Please know that many of the safety measures we instituted during the Pandemic will remain in effect such as handwashing, cleaning and air filtration. We understand that we may begin to see other illnesses such as colds, sore throats and the flu emerge as some masks are removed. We will continue to be vigilant and ask individuals to remain at home if they experience any signs of illness. We will also continue to follow our protocols when individuals test positive for COVID-19. Students and staff will continue to be required to remain at home for five days, and may return once a negative antigen test occurs or in 10 days. We will no longer notify the community when we have positive cases. Please know however, that again we will change course if our data shows a number of cases in a specific classroom, team, etc..

Our schools have been working hard over the past few weeks to prepare our students for this possible change. Please have conversations with your children about this change as well. We want our students to feel comfortable and will work hard to make the change as seamless as possible. The care and kindness of our community has helped us get to this point, and will aid us in moving through this next phase. Thank you for all you have done.

Sincerely,

Jay Badams
Superintendent