



# MARBLEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Marblehead Veterans Middle School

Duncan Sleigh Square  
217 Pleasant Street  
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945  
781-639-3120 Fax: 781-639-3130

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**To:** John Buckey  
**From:** Matt Fox  
**Date:** August 19, 2021  
**Re:** School Nurse

**Dates:** Our Nurse position was posted on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We conducted interviews on July 19<sup>th</sup>, July 29<sup>th</sup> and August 19<sup>th</sup>

**Applicants:** We received seven applications

**Interview Committee:**

With multiple interview dates, many people were involved in this search. The members of the various interview committees included:

Matt Fox, Principal  
Julia Ferreira, Assistant Principal  
Deanna McMahon, Lead Nurse  
Emily Barron, School Committee Member  
Jae Guttadauro, Spanish Teacher  
Elizabeth Lutwak, Librarian

**Interviews:**

We invited six of the seven applicants for a Zoom Screening interview, one withdrew from the search and one did not return our messages, so we interviewed four candidates for the first round. Of those four candidates, we invited back three for in-person interviews.

**Recommendation:**

We would like to recommend Amanda Mavros for our open nurse position.

**Background and feedback:**

Ms. Mavros has worked in pediatric oncology in a hospital setting as well as serving as a school nurse substitute in both Marblehead and Swampscott. Her experiences in both settings have been varied, and we believe they will lead to the successful care of our students. In her interviews, Ms. Mavros noted many times how she believe that communication, even over communication, is important when dealing with medical issues of adolescents. Additionally, Ms. Mavros impressed us with her answers about addressing the mental health and social/emotional needs of her students, as well as their medical needs.

**References:**

Deanna McMahon has worked with Ms. Mavros for the last year and a half and has been impressed with her adjustment to the school setting.

# Profile

Application Date: Jul 12, 2021

Name	amanda mavros		
Other/Birth Name(s)	n/a	Social Security #	____ - ____ - ____
Current Address	[REDACTED] Lynn, MA 01904	Permanent Address	
Phone Number	[REDACTED]		
Email	[REDACTED]		
Web Site	None provided		

## Career Information

Highest Degree	Bachelor	Credits Beyond Degree	None
Date Available To Start	August 30, 2021		
Currently under contract? No If yes, where?			
Eligible to work in US without sponsorship?	Yes		

## Additional Information

Referral Source	Not Provided
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## Demographic Data

Education Level	Not provided	Birth Date	Not Provided
Hispanic or Latino?	Not Provided	Gender	Female
Race(s)	Not Provided		
Veteran Status	Not a veteran		

## Job Posting Information

Job Title	School Nurse - Veterans Middle School		
Job ID	3581199		

Dear Matthew,

My name is Amanda Mavros, and I am currently a registered nurse at Brigham and Women's Hospital working per diem as pediatric radiation oncologist nurse. I have been at Brigham & Women's hospital for over a year now, and I admire the knowledge, people, and facility while working here and how it's helped me become the nurse I am today.

However, my goal not only in community nursing but in pediatric nursing. I started to work per diem in the school system in Swampscott and Marblehead in hopes that I would one day have the opportunity to become a full time school nurse. I have been involved in the Marblehead community for many years with babysitting since my undergraduate degree, and volunteering at Spur.

With my passion for wellbeing and health to work in the school system, my love of the pediatric children, and experience in the medical field, I know this is right position for me. I know my experience with medical protocol and tools, knowledge of first aid, and great communications skills well prepares me for this position.

# amanda mavros

41 Lynnfield street Lynn, Massachusetts 01904  
172402436 amandamavros@gmail.com

## Education

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### MGH Institute of Health Professions

Boston, Massachusetts  
Bachelor of Science

**Major:** Nursing

**GPA:** 3.500

Attended May 2018 to September 2019

Degree conferred September 2019

### Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences

Boston, Massachusetts  
Bachelor of Science

**Major:** Health Science, **Minor:** Nutrition

**GPA:** 3.400

Attended September 2013 to May 2017

Degree conferred May 2017

## Experience

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### Brigham and Women's Hospital

Staff Nurse

Boston

Radiation Oncology- Pediatric & Adult; review resume for more details

May 2021 - Present

Perform as a periprocedural nurse in a PACU/OR setting with pediatric cases going under anesthesia.

- Perform initial patient assessments to determine a patient's cognitive, behavioral, nutritional, and physiologic norms.

- Communicate with other radiation staff including oncologists, nurses, radiation therapists, social services, etc. to

maintain patients' treatment plan and continuity of care.

**Reason for leaving:** Not leaving, currently per diem.

**Supervisor:** Eli Levin ((617) 732-5500)

**Experience Type:** Other, Part-time

It is **OK** to contact this employer

### Marblehead Public Schools

Per Diem School Nurse

Marblehead

Feb 2020 - Present

**Supervisor:** Jeanne (15087286525)

**Experience Type:** Public School, Part-time

It is **OK** to contact this employer

**Brigham & Women's Hospital**

Staff Nurse

Boston

Hematology/Oncology Unit

Apr 2020 - May 2021

- Responsibilities included utilizing the nursing process in managing and facilitating skilled nursing care for highly acute oncology & medical-surgical patients. High acuity and rapid patient turnover posed challenging work environment, resulting in excellent knowledge base.
- Core competencies include but not limited to; administration of chemotherapy, acute care, hemodynamic monitoring, IV therapy, assessments, wound care, and patient/family education.
- Functioned as a clinical resource while managing up to 4 patients, consistently providing direction, education, and support to ensure a focus on the team goals and patient driven outcomes.

**Reason for leaving:** Wanting to Pursue my career as a pediatric nurse

**Supervisor:** Lauren Willard (617) 732-5500

**Experience Type:** Other, Full-time

It is **OK** to contact this employer

Recommendation for Amanda Mavros, BSN

To whom it may concern,

It has been my pleasure getting to know Amanda Mavros over the past 1.5 years since we met. It was back in December of 2019 when I was impressed by how put together she was as a young adult when she came in to interview for a substitute school nursing position with Marblehead public schools. Since then, with all the challenges of COVID 19 Amanda was unable to start working for Marblehead right away because we were not on campus much of the time between December 2019 and August 2020 however, she kept in touch with me enthusiastically waiting to work for our school system. Happily, we were finally able to get her oriented to work for us in December 2020. This past spring, she successfully covered a few schools in our district as well as found time to get experience working for Swampscott public schools. Between her interview and working for us Amanda expanded her horizons taking on a new nursing role in oncology at Brigham and Women's Hospital working with both adults and children which helped her advance her health assessment skills and readied her to work in the public-school environment. Besides nursing, Amanda has worked as a nanny over the past 10 years and has been described by her employers with words like; extremely dependable, diligently hard working, energetic, professional, organized, caring and compassionate. Her love for children along with her organizational, leadership and dependability make her a strong candidate for the role of school nurse in any community. As Amanda is newer to school health, she will still need to complete the MTEL exam and take the 2-day Introduction to School Nursing class, however, I feel confident that she would take on these challenges with extreme interest and pass with flying colors. Clearly with these qualities, I feel Amanda would be a tremendous addition to Marblehead public schools. Sincerely,

Deanna McMahon  
Lead Nurse Marblehead Public Schools



MARBLEHEAD  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent  
Dr. John J. Buckley  
9 Widger Road,  
Marblehead, MA 01945  
phone: 781.639.3140 x16  
fax: 781.639.3149

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**Memo To:** MPS School Committee  
**From:** John J. Buckley  
**Re:** LTS School Nurse & Covid Coordinator  
**Date:** August 16, 2021

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Since we will be opening Eveleth for six weeks we need a long term substitute nurse. The state is offering a much more extensive and robust Covid testing program this year. I invited Andrew Petty and lead nurse Deanna McMahon to a webinar about the new programming. It was clear that the three options being offered were excellent, but adding this work to our school nurses' expectations would not work. I asked Michelle Cresta about a one year grant funded position and she confirmed that we could do that. I knew Deanna had participated in the search for the new MVMS nurse and inquired about candidates. She indicated there was one candidate that might be interested in a one year contract. We posted the position and there were three applicants. Nan Murphy and I interviewed Joseph Griffin on Friday, August 13, 2021. He is certified by DESE; the other two candidates did not have certifications as a school nurse. Joseph's recommendations and references were excellent. I am recommending him as a long term substitute nurse and our Covid Coordinator for the 2021-2022 school year.

# Profile

Application Date: Aug 12, 2021

Name	Joseph Michael Griffin		
Other/Birth Name(s)	n/a	Social Security #	--- - -- -
Current Address	██████████ Marblehead , MA 01945	Permanent Address	
Phone Number	██████████		
Email	griffinm1c@gmail.com		
Web Site	None provided		

## Career Information

Highest Degree	Bachelor	Credits Beyond Degree	None
Date Available To Start	August 15, 2020		
Currently under contract? No If yes, where?			
Eligible to work in US without sponsorship?	Yes		

## Additional Information

Referral Source	Not Provided
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## Demographic Data

Education Level	Not provided	Birth Date	Not Provided
Hispanic or Latino?	No	Gender	Male
Race(s)	White		
Veteran Status	Not a veteran		

## Job Posting Information

Job Title	Marblehead Public-Nurse LTS & COVID Coordinator		
Job ID	3639726		

Joseph M Griffin

Dear Ms McMahon

I am writing to apply for the position of school nurse recently posted for your school. I have spent the past year as a school nurse in Lawrence, MA and the previous 2 years before that as a pediatric nurse in an acute inpatient setting. I enjoy my role as a school nurse and I am looking for something a little closer to home. I have over 20 years experience working with children in various settings including my time as a therapeutic foster parent for children with behavior challenges. I am excited for the opportunity to continue working with kids and to continue to do what i love.

Thank you for your time,

Joseph Griffin

# Joseph Michael Griffin

Marblehead , Massachusetts 01945

## Education

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### **Brookline College**

Phoenix, Arizona  
Bachelor of Science

**Major:** Nursing

**GPA:** 3.000

Attended May 2012 to December 2013

Degree conferred December 2013

### **Ball State University**

Muncie, Indiana  
Bachelor of Science

**Major:** Criminal Justice, **Minor:** Developmental Psychology

Attended January 2001 to May 2005

Degree conferred May 2005

## Experience

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### **Lawrence High School**

Registered Nurse  
Lawrence, MA

Aug 2020 - Present

**Reason for leaving:** I am looking for something a bit closer to home.

**Supervisor:** [REDACTED]

**Experience Type:** Public School, Full-time

Please **do not** contact this employer

### **Valleywise Health**

Pediatric Nurse  
Phoenix, Arizona

Feb 2019 - Jun 2020

**Reason for leaving:** Moved to Massachusetts

**Supervisor:** [REDACTED]

**Experience Type:** Other, Full-time

It is **OK** to contact this employer

### **Human Resources Consultants**

Therapeutic Foster Parent  
Phoenix, Arizona

Jun 2012 - Jan 2020

**Reason for leaving:** Completed Adoption for final placement

**Supervisor:** [Redacted]

**Experience Type:** Other, Full-time

It is OK to contact this employer

**Youth Development Institute**

Behavior Tech

Phoenix, Arizona

May 2016 - Sep 2018

**Reason for leaving:** Licensed as a Registered Nurse

**Supervisor:** [Redacted]

**Experience Type:** Other, Full-time

It is OK to contact this employer



# 2021-22 Opening Recommendation

8/24/2021

# DESE and Commissioner Updates



- ★ As noted in the Updates to DESE COVID-19 Guidance released on **May 27, 2021**, all districts and schools will be required to be in-person, full-time, five days a week this fall and all previously-released Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) health and safety requirements will be lifted.
- ★ DESE/DPH COVID-19 Guidance for Districts and Schools: Fall 2021 released **July 30, 2021**
- ★ DESE hosted a COVID-19 Testing Program webinar on **August 11, 2021**. Andrew Petty, Deanna McMahon and I attended.
- ★ DESE sponsored a COVID-19 School Testing Programs with CIC Health on **August 13, 2021**. I attended with Deanna McMahon. We applied that day.
- ★ Commissioner Riley called an Emergency Meeting **Friday, August 20, 2021**.
- ★ **Tuesday, August 24** Commissioner Riley to meet with DESE Board.





# Masking

## Masking

- This fall, DESE and DPH **strongly recommend** that all students in kindergarten through grade 6 wear masks when indoors, except students who cannot do so due to medical conditions or behavioral needs. Masks are not necessary outdoors and may be removed while eating indoors.
- DESE and DPH also **strongly recommend** that unvaccinated staff in all grades, unvaccinated students in grades 7 and above, and unvaccinated visitors wear masks indoors, in alignment with the statewide **advisory** on masking.
- As of this writing, the Commissioner is seeking **DESE** approval to mandate mask wearing in K-12 schools throughout the Commonwealth until at least October 1. They meet on Tuesday, August 24th to formalize this recommendation. If DESE mandates mask wearing, we will oblige.

# Safety Considerations & Mitigation Strategies



- Masking
- Diagnostic Testing
- Distancing
- Ventilation
- Air Purifiers
- MERV 13 filters
- Tents
- Hand Sanitizers
- Seating Charts'

# COVID-19 Testing Program



## Testing services included in COVID-19 Testing Program

### Symptomatic Testing

- For when individuals present **symptoms while at school**; individuals should not go to school if experiencing symptoms while at home
- Samples are collected at school using the **BinaxNOW rapid antigen test**
- Those testing **negative with isolated/mild symptoms can stay** in school

### "Test and Stay" *Close contact testing*

- For when individuals are in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual while at school,
- Samples are collected at school using the **BinaxNOW rapid antigen test**
- Tests are **administered daily for at least five days** from the date of exposure

### Routine COVID Pooled Testing

- Routine Pooled Testing and **School-Based Follow-Up Testing**: samples are collected at school; if a pool is positive, follow-up testing at school with either BinaxNOW and/or individual PCR testing as necessary
- Routine Pooled Testing and **Lab-Based Follow-Up Testing**: samples are collected; if a pool is positive, individual Follow-Up testing occurs at the lab, without a second sample collection



# COVID-19 Testing Program

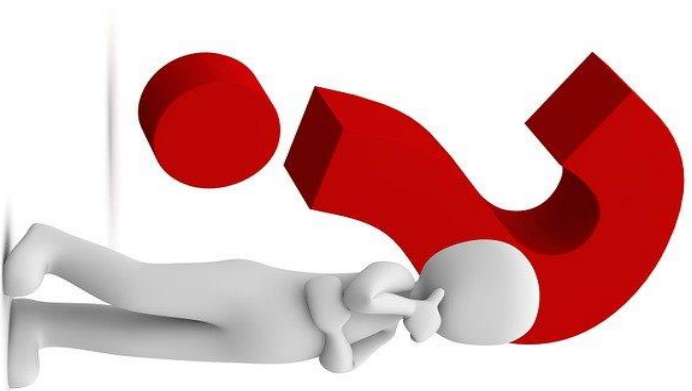


- Update Covid Symptom Checklist
- Update Health Attestation forms
  - students
  - staff
- Close Contact
- Quarantine

## Department Updates for 2021-22



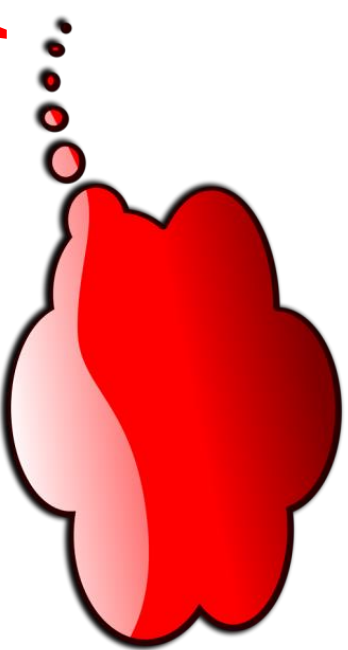
- Food Services - Richard Kelleher
- Facilities - Todd Bloodgood
- Technology - Stephen Kwiatek
- Special Services - Paula Donnelly
- Teaching & Learning - Nan Murphy
- Athletics - Greg Ceglarski



**QUESTIONS**

*Or*

**Comments**





# **Marblehead Public Schools Return to School, 2021-22**

August 20, 2021



Good People of Marblehead:

Thank you for your patience and support as we tackle some of the most complex yet important educational challenges of our time.

The past 18 months have been exceptionally challenging for members of our community. Our educators, our students, and our families have learned and grown from these experiences. Our pandemic recovery plans will recognize and address the trauma and impact of the pandemic, taking into account the unique experiences of individual students and families.

**My top priority for the 2021-22 school year is to offer an uninterrupted, in-person learning experience.** To accomplish this, we will monitor health and safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). We will also continue to work closely with the Marblehead Board of Health Director and our exemplary school nurses to understand local and state statistics relative to COVID-19 prevalence and vaccination rates in our community (both favorable at this time).

**While we will work to ensure as much consistency and stability as possible, flexibility will continue to be paramount.** Tracking the data and constant collaboration will allow protocol optimization and help us to provide the safest possible learning environment. The protocols and procedures contained in this document are subject to change throughout the year, and in the event that adjustments are necessary (or that guidance changes at the local, state, or national level) we will do our very best to communicate in a clear and timely manner.

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to welcoming you back very soon.

Sincerely,

*John J. Buckey*

Dr. John Buckey  
Superintendent of Schools  
Marblehead Public School District



## Guiding Principles

These guiding principles were developed in 2020-21 with input from all MPS stakeholder groups and the community. They represent the key values that drive our return to full in-person instruction.

1. **Welfare, safety and health.** We will track and follow federal (CDC) and state-mandated (MDPH) and DESE guidelines. We will consult with medical, public health, MHD Board of Health and school health experts to adopt practices that ensure these three principles - welfare, health and safety - are maintained.
2. **Educational excellence.** We will maintain and ensure high-caliber teaching and learning consistent with the Marblehead Public Schools experience. We will hold ourselves to the highest standards in both domains.
3. **Social-emotional support.** After eighteen months of uncertainty for both students and staff, we will innovate in order to develop new ways to support emerging challenges. We will continue the delivery of critical student support services.
4. **Equity.** We will be intentional on matters of addressing the needs of all students, including our most vulnerable populations. We are committed to expanding access to tools, technology and support in order to ensure equity and access to robust learning at all levels.
5. **Communication.** We will continue to ensure that information is readily available and updated as needed. We will seek feedback to improve our communication tools and make decision-making transparent.
6. **Flexibility and fluidity.** As we move through the return of full in-person instruction, we know we might have to make adaptations or amendments. We reserve the right to adjust these plans at any time given the trajectory of COVID-19 in our community or across the state, budgets and other factors.



7. **PPI (presume positive intentions).** We must renew our commitment to presume positive intentions and remain open-minded to the perspectives of our colleagues, neighbors and friends, keeping what's best for students at the heart of our decision-making.

## Full District In-Person Learning

**Per DESE, “all districts and schools will be required to be in-person, full-time, five days a week, and all DESE health and safety requirements will be lifted.**

This includes all physical distancing requirements. Districts are no longer able to offer remote learning as a standard learning model. Pathways that existed prior to the pandemic for offering virtual learning to individual students in limited cases will remain available to districts and schools. These include home/hospital tutoring programs due to a documented medical condition and other narrow circumstances.”

Marblehead is fortunate in this transition because a majority of our district’s students attended full in-person days of instruction to end the 2020-21 school year. We have done full, in-person school already and we know how to successfully inhabit our buildings while applying necessary safety protocols.

That being said, we fully recognize that the removal of the remote learning option impacts over 200 Marblehead students. We are mindful of the unique re-entry these students face and we are dedicated to supporting their return to in-person instruction. Principals are creating options for school tours and other familiarization opportunities and teachers will be aware of which students were fully remote in 2020-21.



## Mitigation Strategies

- **DISTANCING:** During Spring and Summer 2020, principals conducted classroom-by-classroom site and resource feasibility work to understand how to safely accommodate students and staff.
  - We analyzed air handling and filtration system capacity to ensure adequate, safe, and high quality ventilation in teaching spaces.
  - We identified additional space in which to separate sick students from well students, and in which to care for students or staff in the event they become sick during the day.
  - We determined that we could reach the student and adult capacity of most classrooms in the district with three-foot physical distancing. We returned to full in-person instruction last spring with three-foot spacing in place, and we return to school this fall with the same capacity to keep all students, for the most part and in most instances, spaced three feet apart.
  - As always, where we can maximize the distance we will endeavor to do so as a purposeful mitigation strategy.
  - Physical distancing will be prioritized while eating indoors and during defined activities.
  
- **MASKING:** Consistent with our approach in 2020-21, we form masking recommendations with an eye to guidance from DESE, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Marblehead Board of Health and its Director.
  - **As of this writing, the Commissioner is seeking DESE approval to mandate mask wearing in K-12 schools throughout the Commonwealth until at least October 1. They meet on Tuesday, August 24th to formalize this recommendation. If DESE mandates mask wearing, we will oblige.**
  - Currently, **MDPH** strongly recommends that all students in grades K-6 mask indoors, except those who cannot do so due to medical conditions or behavioral needs.
  - The **Marblehead Board of Health** and the **Marblehead Health Dept** recommends that masks be strongly recommended indoors for students and staff in grades K-6, except those who cannot do so due to medical conditions or behavioral needs, and that masks be strongly recommended indoors for students and staff in grades 7-12, and for all visitors to school buildings.
  - Masks are required for all students and staff, vaccinated or unvaccinated, on school buses and in school health offices.



- As a community, we will be deliberate in normalizing mask wearing for any students and staff for whom it is either required or strongly recommended. Bullying associated with mask wearing will not be tolerated.
- In alignment with the [statewide advisory on masking](#), masks are not necessary outdoors and may be removed while eating indoors.
- We will use [thresholds to make adjustments to our masking recommendations or requirements](#). These thresholds will be developed in partnership with the Marblehead Health Department and the Superintendent’s Medical Advisory Committee.

Testing services included in COVID-19 Testing Program		
<b>Symptomatic Testing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For when individuals present symptoms while at school; individuals should not go to school if experiencing symptoms while at home</li><li>• Samples are collected at school using the <b>BinaxNOW rapid antigen test</b></li><li>• Those testing <b>negative with isolated/mild symptoms can stay</b> in school</li></ul>	<b>“Test and Stay”</b> <i>Close contact testing</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For when individuals are in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual while at school.</li><li>• Samples are collected at school using the <b>BinaxNOW rapid antigen test</b></li><li>• Tests are <b>administered daily for at least five days</b> from the date of exposure</li></ul>	<b>Routine COVID Pooled Testing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Routine Pooled Testing and <u>School-Based</u> Follow-Up Testing:</b> samples are collected at school; If a pool is positive, follow-up testing at school with either <b>BinaxNOW</b> and/or individual PCR testing as necessary</li><li>• <b>Routine Pooled Testing and <u>Lab-Based</u> Follow-Up Testing:</b> samples are collected; if a pool is positive, <b>individual Follow-Up testing occurs at the lab</b>, without a second sample collection</li></ul>

- **DIAGNOSTIC TESTING:** During 2020-21, DESE and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) introduced COVID19 screening and diagnostic testing in the school setting. They have expanded the program for the 2021-2022 school year and Marblehead has been accepted with priority standing. Administrative training is underway and all school nurses will be trained to administer the program. We are also hiring a Covid Coordinator to work with state appointed support personnel for Marblehead on all of the logistics of the program.
- **CONTACT TRACING & QUARANTINE:** Close contacts are defined as individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors, for at least 15 minutes during a 24-



hour period.<sup>1 2</sup> Please note that the at-risk exposure time begins 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or time of positive test if asymptomatic) and continues until the time the COVID-19 positive individual is isolated. In general, close contacts should follow the testing and quarantine response protocols. However, certain close contacts are exempted from testing and quarantine response protocols as noted in the following [DESE guidance document](#).

- **VACCINATION:** We urge all those eligible for the vaccine to please: get vaccinated! Toward this end we will continue to offer vaccination clinics throughout the year in partnership with the Marblehead Health Department.
  - In addition to recommending COVID-19 vaccination, it continues to be essential that as many children and adults as possible receive flu vaccines this fall. This will reduce the number of students who need to stay home due to illness.
  
- **OTHER MITIGATION EFFORTS:** Massachusetts has among the highest vaccination rates of any state in the nation, and evidence continues to reinforce that the COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective, especially against severe disease.<sup>3</sup> Even for those students not yet vaccinated, the apparent risk of COVID-19 to children remains small.<sup>3 4</sup> Even so, we will continue to engage best practices with regard to using MERV 13 filters, air purifiers, and enhanced ventilation.
  - The district has invested in acquiring individual air purifiers for any educator who wants one in his/her classroom or office and will continue to provide them.
  - In larger spaces, multiple purifiers are in use.
  - Open windows and outdoor learning are encouraged.
  - We will once again have tents at each school to encourage our students and staff to be outside whenever possible.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: To be a close contact, the 15 minutes must occur within a 24-hour period. Multiple brief or transitory interactions (less than a minute) throughout the day are unlikely to result in 15 minutes of cumulative contact and do not meet the definition of close contact.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>

<sup>4</sup> <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6914e4>





**At a glance...**

	<b>End of 2020-21</b>	<b>Start of 2021-22</b>
<b>Distancing</b>	Minimum of 3-foot physical distancing, more distance wherever possible	Same as 2020-21
<b>Masking</b>	Masks required in schools for all students and staff. Not required outdoors or when eating.	<b>PENDING DESE DECISION - see MASKING section above.</b>
<b>Hygiene &amp; Hand Washing</b>	Hand sanitizer in each classroom and hand sanitizing stations in all buildings. Promoted the importance of regular hand washing.	Same as 2020-21 - strongly encouraged, signage to promote it and hand sanitizing stations throughout the buildings, in classrooms and offices.
<b>Testing</b>	Spring pool testing program pilot program.	Comprehensive COVID19 screening & diagnostic testing program, including real-time testing and response for symptomatic people, “test and stay” close contact testing, and routine pooled testing.
<b>Vaccination</b>	2 vaccination clinics at MVMS.	1 vaccination clinic this summer. Will offer clinics this fall and monitor “booster” clinic needs.
<b>Contact Tracing</b>	Close contacts identified and notified. School-level alerts issued when a COVID case has occurred. District case dashboard updated regularly.	Same as 2020-21, except that certain close contacts are exempted from testing and quarantine response protocols as noted in the following <a href="#">DESE guidance document</a> .
<b>Quarantine</b>	Followed guidance provided by CDC, DESE and MDPH.	DESE has issued revised quarantine guidance this year. It is outlined in the following <a href="#">DESE guidance document</a> .
<b>Daily Health Attestation</b>	Students and families expected to review health attestation each day before arrival.	Similar to 2020-21 but with an updated symptom checklists: <a href="#">Student Attestation</a> , <a href="#">Staff Attestation</a>
<b>Other Mitigation Protocols</b>	Individual air purifiers available for educators’ classrooms or offices. Multiple purifiers running in larger spaces. Encouraged open windows & outdoor learning. Outdoor learning areas and/or tents at each school.	Same as 2020-21



## Social Emotional Learning

We know that a full return to in-person learning will require special attention to meeting the social-emotional needs of staff and students.

The District will leverage the past efforts of employing community building meetings and Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS) to continue providing opportunities for staff and students to develop self-awareness, social awareness, relationship building, and problem-solving skills. Some of the goals for social-emotional learning will be as follows:

- Support the transition of all students by building strong relationships and community.
- Teach executive functioning skills students will need.
- Support social-emotional learning needs through targeted assessments and interventions..

Social-emotional learning opportunities will be built into the schedule for each day. Each day at the elementary level will begin with a community meeting to serve as a Social-Emotional Learning check-in for all students. At the secondary level, all classes will start with opportunities for a social-emotional learning check-in.

Additionally, schools will also make efforts to include school-wide community-building events, which might include special speakers and grade-level assemblies to help the students feel connected to the school as a whole. It is expected that clubs and activities will occur out of school time in person. Fall athletics will have already begun.

Teachers will plan to make use of a variety of formative and summative assessments that will include online platforms and other options. These assessments will help teachers to determine the needs of their students and the ability to communicate concerns or issues with families and the appropriate support services personnel.



## FAQs

**1. Where can I find more information on the health and safety protocols that are being recommended in light of the Delta variant of the virus?**

- 07-19-2021: American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a “layered approach to make school safe for all students, teachers, and staff.” [The AAP’s guidance](#) “includes a recommendation that everyone older than age 2 wear masks, regardless of vaccination status.”
- 07-27-2021: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest a return to indoor mask-wearing in this [CDC guidance](#), stating that the “CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.”
- 07-30-2021: In collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH), the Commissioner of Education released this [new guidance](#) for PK-12 public schools. Governor Baker spoke in support of the Commissioner’s recommendation later in the day.

**2. The guidance from the AAP, the CDC, and the MDPH is inconsistent. What are the health and safety rules that MPS will follow in the upcoming school year?**

Governor Baker noted that Massachusetts has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country, which may account for the variation in the approach to back to school guidance. Marblehead’s vaccination rate is very high. Marblehead Public Schools have tried to consistently follow the guidance from the DESE and MDPH; in an effort to avoid confusion and keep students in school, we will continue to do so.

**3. Will MPS require additional physical distancing when we return to school?**



No. We will do our best to maintain maximum physical distances when eating, but there are no other physical distancing requirements for the upcoming school year. In most instances, we are able to maintain a three feet physical distance in our classrooms.

**4. Is physical distancing still required at lunch time or when we are eating?**

In the new school year, everyone will return to in-person learning and remote learning is no longer an option. These changes increase pressure on existing space in our schools, making it more challenging to physically distance children when eating. Outside remains an excellent option for eating whenever possible.

Children under the age of 12 are unvaccinated, and the new variants, breakthrough cases, and other unknowns make it important to increase physical distances during food consumption whenever possible. Inclement weather is one of our greatest challenges in schools, and our principals and educators will do their best to maintain greater physical distances when eating whenever possible.

Building principals have been working with the Directors of Food Service and Facilities and will be sharing specific lunch plans with families at the building level.

**5. Will there be assigned seating this year?**

Yes. Whenever possible, seats will be assigned, and we recommend keeping students in desks rather than tables for now. In some cases it may be necessary to use tables. We must continue our contact tracing efforts, so assigned seating in classrooms and on buses remains important.

**6. My child is immunocompromised and in-person learning does not feel safe to me. Is there a remote option this year?**

Unfortunately, remote learning is no longer an option in the upcoming school year per the Commissioner of Education. Please refer to the DESE COVID-19 guidance issued on May 27, 2021, page 4: *Districts will no longer be able to offer remote learning as a standard learning model. As noted above, districts and schools will be required to be in-person, full-time, five days a week this fall.*



Pathways that existed prior to the pandemic for offering virtual learning to individual students in limited cases will remain available to districts and schools. These include home/hospital tutoring programs due to a documented medical condition, 3 single district virtual schools, and other narrow circumstances.

**7. Will Marblehead Public Schools continue to participate in a SY22 COVID-19 testing program?**

Yes, it is an expanded program and we have been accepted into the program through a priority application process.

**8. Will we ever get to attend school without strict health and safety measures in place?**

Yes! One way to get this pandemic behind us is by following our “do your part” recommendation and get fully vaccinated as soon as it is available to you and make sure you are not sending sick students to school.

**9. Will masks be required on school buses?**

Yes. Passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses. In addition, all MPS school buses must have windows open at least 4 inches at all times. For more information, here is the [CDC's order](#).

**10. What are the current travel restrictions? Will I be able to travel out of state without a quarantine?**

[Massachusetts COVID-19 Travel Guidance](#) suggests that if you are vaccinated there are no restrictions on domestic travel, and you can travel freely.



Here are the CDC's recommendations for [unvaccinated people](#), including a viral test 3-5 days after and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel. Since children under the age of 12 are ineligible for a vaccine, we anticipate that many families will have questions about the rules. We ask all MPS families and staff to please follow the State's travel guidance. Qualifying special conditions include serious family emergencies/illnesses, deaths, and custody arrangements. If you have questions, please contact your principal or school nurse.

**11. If a student or staff member is sick and experiencing symptoms, such as fever, cough, runny nose, what should they do?**

**School Personnel:**

Every day prior to coming to work staff will be asked to complete an [attestation of wellness](#). If a staff member has any symptoms, they should call their supervisor and report the symptoms and stay home from school.

Staff should follow up with their Health Care Provider for further evaluation and testing. They will be allowed to return to school based on their symptoms, further evaluation, and clearance from the Marblehead Health Dept/School Nurse. Staff who become ill while at school will be sent home immediately.

**Students and Families:**

Before coming to school or getting on the bus: Families should assess their child's state of wellness before leaving home for school. It is expected that each family will assess each of their children every day for symptoms by using this checklist before the child comes to school.

[Here is the form](#) for families to use to assess each of their children, every day before school.

If the student has any symptoms of COVID-19, they should stay home from school. The family should notify their school nurse that the child will be absent and the reason for the absence. The school nurse will follow-up with the family regarding the child's symptoms, when the child was seen by a medical professional and any testing that was done. The child can return to school once cleared by the school nurse and/or the Marblehead Board of Health.



MARBLEHEAD  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Business Office**  
9 Widger Road,  
Marblehead, MA 01945  
phone: 781.639.3140  
fax: 781.639.3149

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Marblehead School Committee  
FROM: Michelle Cresta, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations  
Todd Bloodgood, Director of Facilities  
CC: John J. Buckey, Superintendent  
DATE: August 20, 2021  
RE: Bus Information and Fee Approval for the 2021-2022 School Year

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As we approach the new school year, please find a summary of our student transportation plans and a request to establish a bus fee for an optional bus program for students that live less than two miles from school.

In accordance with MGL chapter 71, section 68, we will be transporting students in grades kindergarten through six only. We do not offer any regular day transportation to Veterans Middle School and Marblehead High School. Transportation will be offered free to any kindergarten through grade six student that lives more than 2 miles away from their home school. This year we will be requiring ALL students that will be riding the bus to be registered with us. This will be a new process for us. We will be sending out an email to all families who live more than two miles away from school asking them to register their students if they intend to ride the bus. It is important that we closely track the students that we are transporting as we continue to follow COVID protocols. We will be once again keeping the bus windows open to allow adequate air flow. Also, while on the bus students will be required to sit in assigned seats and will be required to wear a mask.

This year we will also offer a pilot program of transporting a limited number of students who live less than two miles from school for a fee. This program will be offered to students in grades kindergarten through grade 6 only. Initially, we will be opening this pilot program up to a maximum of eight (8) students with the hopes of being able to offer it to more students in the near future. We anticipate that

these students will primarily be located within the Bus 3 route which will cover the Old Town area of Marblehead; however, this program is open to any area within the town.

It is recommended that this program will be offered on a first come-first serve basis and will have the fee set at \$250 per student and that there will be not be a reduced or waived fee as this is an optional program. Registration of this optional program will be through an email to be sent to [transportation@marbleheadschoools.org](mailto:transportation@marbleheadschoools.org) and will be open at a set day and time. Currently, we have tentative plans to open the registration on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. We expect to be able to let families know the same day if their student will be able to ride the bus this school year so as to give families as much notice as possible.

School Committee will need to vote the fee for the optional program. The recommended motion is as follows:

*Motion to approve the bus fee for the optional student transportation program in the amount of \$250 per student for the 2021-2022 school year.*