

MMUUSD

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear MMUUSD School Community,

There are several COVID-19 updates included in this issue of District Happenings. We are excited and grateful to be able to implement the Test to Stay (TTS) program for K-8 students soon and offer a Vermont Department of Health (VDH) vaccination clinic at Camels Hump Middle School for students ages 5-11 on 11/24/21 and 12/15/21. We learned recently that the CHMS clinic filled to capacity in less than 2 hours. However, we anticipate more school-based clinics facilitated by the VDH in the future. We will communicate these vaccination opportunities to our school community as soon as we have the dates and details. These health initiatives will allow us to keep more students in school and reduce challenges and disruptions for families.

Please take some time to go through our updates and don't hesitate to contact your school nurse or school administrator if you have questions.

Thank you for your perseverance, patience and support as we do our best to manage and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on students, staff members and our communities.

Best,
John Alberghini, Superintendent



Health Update

CHMS Vaccination Clinic for ages 5-11 & General Public

Recently, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention authorized the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11 years old. We are excited to announce that Camels Hump Middle School will be a vaccination site for students ages 5 - 11 years old. The clinic will be held on Wednesday 11/24 with a 3-week follow up clinic on Wednesday 12/15.

Due to the overwhelming response from families, this clinic is already completely full. School-based clinics are facilitated by the Vermont Department of Health. We anticipate there will be additional school-based clinics scheduled, but currently if you are interested in having your child be vaccinated, you can use this site: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine> to find other vaccine clinics being offered in our area. You can also call your child's pediatrician or health care provider for more information.

If you have signed your child up for the vaccine clinic at the CHMS, we ask that you accompany them on 11/24. If your child is a student at RES/CHMS, you may choose to have them get their second shot on 12/15 during the school day with or without a parent or guardian present.

In recent communication from AOE Secretary of Education Daniel French, he provided the following helpful information:

- A list of [school-based vaccination clinics](#) offering the pediatric vaccine
- A [letter](#) from himself and Dr. Levine to all Vermont parents and guardians urging them to get their children vaccinated.

Any families without internet access or who would like assistance to make their appointment should contact the Health Department call center at (855) 722-7878, Mon - Fri 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Sat and Sun 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- To speak with someone in a language other than English, dial the call center, and then press 1.
- People who are Deaf or hard of hearing can make a TTY call to this number by dialing 711 or 1-800-253-0195.

Vaccine Family Forum

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Vermont chapter is hosting Family Forums regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and children. These forums will allow families the opportunity to hear from community pediatricians and to ask questions. Families will have the choice to attend whichever date is convenient for them. ASL interpretation will be available at each forum. There will be more forums available in the future. Please see more information at this [link](#).

Test to Stay (TTS) Program

Test to Stay (TTS) is a testing strategy designed to reduce at-home quarantine of close contacts from school exposure to a person with COVID-19. Test to Stay is *voluntary*, for unvaccinated students who are close contacts of an individual who tested positive. TTS allows students to remain in school and participate in on campus, school-sponsored activities, while receiving daily antigen tests for up to 7 days. An **antigen test** is usually very accurate and uses a nasal swab. We know that antigen tests are less sensitive than PCR tests, but when used over several consecutive days, as we plan to do, they are highly effective at identifying infectious individuals. The big difference is that we can get the results of an antigen test right here at school. This usually takes about 15 to 30 minutes. Students who participate in TTS will need to quarantine at home when not at school. TTS is only available for grades K - 8. As soon as we receive the testing supplies, we will be ready to begin the TTS program. Individual schools have sent out the 2 step registration process and will continue to do so in their newsletters. Here is a link to a [Town Hall on 10/28/21 about TTS](#).

The AOE has created a [COVID-19 Response Testing Consent Form - Print Version](#). This version of the form can be printed, completed by a parent/guardian, and returned to the school nurse or COVID-19 coordinator. This form can be used by both public and independent schools.

Changes to Contact Tracing

Recently, the Agency of Education announced changes to contact tracing:

- MMU High School's vaccination rate is 87%. As a result of the high vaccination rate, the VDH and AOE is not recommending nor requiring MMUHS to conduct contact tracing related to a positive case of COVID-19 at the high school. All contacts will be notified and advised to get a COVID test 3-5 days after the exposure if unvaccinated. All symptomatic students and staff will be advised to seek a COVID test even if vaccinated.
- Bus close contacts are now limited to seatmates only.
- The definition of close contact has been reduced from 6 feet to 3 feet for 15 minutes or longer for students.

Winter Activities - BRMS, CHMS and MMUSD

Members of the Champlain Valley Superintendents Association (CVSA includes Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties) have been working collaboratively to establish common agreements across the region for sports and extracurricular events during the winter season. Many of the expectations and standards shared in this section will be followed across our region, however, the absence of specific guidance from the state may result in differences from district to district. The hosting or home school will determine health and mitigation measures.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the following are requirements and updates for sports as well as extracurricular activities:

Mask Requirements:

Masks are required by all student-athletes, coaching staffs, referees, and spectators during indoor practices, competitions, and games, regardless of individual vaccination status. Exceptions to this are limited, but will include:

- Athletes participating in indoor track events – both practice sessions and meets/competitions – so long as physical distancing is maintained between individuals using staggered starts or other means. When not physically participating in running events, masks will be worn.
- Athletes participating in wrestling, gymnastics, cheer and dance skills, and events that require inversion (i.e., wrestling, tumbling, vaulting, bars, etc.). When not participating physically in the activity, masks will be worn.

Vaccination:

MMUUSD and CVSA strongly recommend that all eligible student-athletes get vaccinated. Vaccination is a proven mitigation strategy and will ultimately ensure athletes can stay in school and compete safely throughout the season. If an athlete is vaccinated, they will not be required to quarantine should an exposure occur.

Spectators:

- Spectators will be allowed this season. There is no limit on capacity as long as compliance with protocols are followed. If protocols are not followed, future games may need to have limited spectators.
- Masks remain on at all times
- Leave space between other individuals and groups

Testing:

Unvaccinated student athletes and any athlete participating in activities where masks cannot be consistently worn (i.e., wrestling, gymnastics, cheer, dance) should participate in weekly testing. Details:

- Dance/Wrestling are required to get tested once per week
- Unvaccinated students need to be tested once per week
- Schools will offer information about testing support

Other Notes

Transportation:

As a friendly *reminder*, when your student's individual, daily transportation plan needs to change, please contact the school in advance so a bus pass can be provided to your student by the school office. The bus pass should be handed to the driver when boarding so the driver is prepared for the change. This also allows the transportation department to evaluate available seats on the bus.

Veteran's Day- November 11

Next Thursday, November 11th, is Veteran's Day. This dedicated day allows us to recognize and pay our respects to all those who have served our country. As a district, we celebrate and honor all veterans for their patriotism, love of our country, and their willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. We thank you for your service.



Important Date Reminders:

- 11/7- Daylight Savings Time
- 11/10- Early Release || Staff Prof. Development
- 11/22-23- Staff Prof. Development - NO SCHOOL
- 11/24-26 School Recess



Exciting News From Around the District!

Underhill Central School

Mrs. Bernier's 3/4 multiage classroom at UCS has a worm bin! Chittenden Solid Waste District donated the bin and Recycle Rhonda came out to teach Mrs. Benier and her students all about the food that the worms can eat and how they will produce the compost. Currently, the worms are transitioning to their new home. The goal is for the classroom to use the bin to compost their food scraps. The worms will eat the food scraps and produce compost for the garden at UCS.



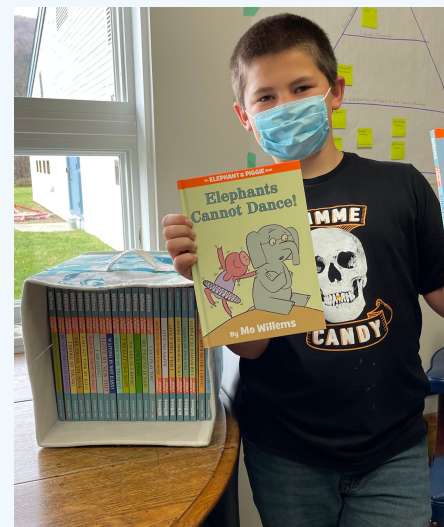
Brewster-Pierce Memorial School

Students and staff got competitive during a pumpkin relay at BPMS!



Acts of Kindness at BPMS

Little acts of kindness should always be celebrated. Here is a 4th grader at BPMS donating a pile of books he no longer uses to the school library for all to enjoy! Thank you!



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[@mmuusdvt](https://www.twitter.com/mmuusdvt)

MMUUSD

district@mmuusd.org

UID PreK - North and South

Some of our district's littlest learners spent time outside this season, jumping in leaves, exploring the forest, and of course painting pumpkins!



Smilie Memorial School

The Kindergarten and First Graders at Smilie Memorial got outside and did some apple picking at Adam's Farm and Market! They also spent a lot of time eating and learning under this beautiful tent that was so generously donated to the school.



The 4th graders at Smilie also joined the outdoor fun with an awesome climbing expedition with the owners of Petra Cliffs, Steve and Andrea Charest!



Richmond Elementary School

Richmond Elementary PreK celebrated it's Annual Lantern Walk, an exercise that focuses on kindling COURAGE and KINDNESS, while also exercising their curious and creative minds!



Browns River Middle School

BRMS Students explored Burlington and of course enjoyed everything that is right in their "backyard," including playing with friends on and off the field!



Camels Hump Middle School

The 5th Grade trumpet players at CHMS took their music outside to enjoy the beautiful Fall weather!



Jericho Elementary School

JES has begun firing up their wood fired oven once again. Last Friday classes made a variety of foods in the oven. A grade 4 class celebrated with fresh bread, while learning about Vermont counties from a special guest. Grade 2 students had potatoes they had picked from the garden while learning about potato pollination. Did you know potatoes can grow from both another potato and from seed! A kindergarten class compared different types of squash after roasting a few varieties in the oven. It was a yummy day of learning.



Aimee Randall, a 4th grade teacher at JES created this kindness garden years ago. Every couple years, when the paint fades and she recreates it with her current class! This month, they hung up their updated signs. The top locations they want to go through reading are: Olympus, Hogwarts, Naboo, Pompeii, The Underworld, The Rainforest, and Count Olaf's House!



Mount Mansfield Union High School

Mount Mansfield athletics got into the Halloween spirit for the Homecoming Parade! These were the top three winners: Girls Varsity Soccer, Field Hockey and the Golf team!



IMPORTANT DATES:

- 11/7 Daylight Savings - Fall Back!
- 11/10: Early Release Day / Staff Prof. Development
- 11/22-23: Staff Professional Development- NO SCHOOL
- 11/24-26: School Recess

We want to hear from you!

An open line of communication is what we are striving for here at MMUUSD! If you have any ideas, feedback, or just something you'd like to share with us, please email: **Jenna Stewart** at jenna.stewart@mmuusd.org

COVID-19 Resources:

- [CDC Requirements for Public Transportation](#)
- [Instructional Reopening for Fall 2021](#)
- [Vermont Department of Health Guidance](#)
- [Child Care and Out of School Programs](#)
- [CDC Recommendations for Reopening Schools](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [Proper Handwashing Video](#)

WE'RE HIRING!

- Spanish Immersion Assistant- Job ID: 3709477
- Accountant - Job ID: 3658464
- Paraeducator - Job ID: 3652423
- Full Time Bus Drivers - Job ID: 3606986
- Part Time Bus Drivers - Job ID: 3606988
- Full Time Mechanic - Job ID: 3609537

\$1,000 sign on bonus for CDL drivers or when CDL is obtained! To apply: [Click Here.](#)

Important School Links

- [School Opening Plan](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Lunch Menus](#)
- [Transportation](#)



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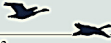
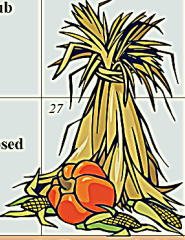


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**From Deborah Rawson
Memorial Library -
November Programming**

November 2021 DRML Youth Calendar						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Story Time 10:30	3	4 Young Writers' Group 3—4:30	5 LEGO Club 3—4	6
7 D&DRML 3:30-5:30	8 	9 Story Time 10:30	10	11 Animation Club 3—4:30	12 Nintendo Switch Games 3—5	13 Read to Wyatt 10:30—12
14 	15 	16 Story Time 10:30 Read to Wyatt 3—4:30	17	18 Young Writers' Group 3—4:30	19 LEGO Club 3—4	20 
21	22 Miss Abbey flies south for the holiday	23 	24 	25 Library Closed	26 Library Closed	27
28	29	30 Story Time 10:30	<p>As it gets colder, we're going to try moving story time indoors. We'll meet masked in the program room Tuesdays at 10:30. No registration required. You've also got two chances to read to the lovely Bernese Mountain Dog, Wyatt! Come visit on Saturday the 13th in the morning, or on Tuesday the 16th in the afternoon.</p>			

