

District Happenings

What You Need to Know from Around the District

What's Inside!

Health Updates & Reminders

ESSER III

Around the District

HELPFUL LINKS



THANK YOU!

Dear MMUUSD Community,

I cannot believe we are through the first month of school and I want to take this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you for supporting us as we navigate changes in guidelines and recommendations from the Agency of Education and Vermont Department of Health. I can assure you that we are doing our very best to keep our schools healthy, safe and open for in-person learning.

Unfortunately, our district and schools are not immune to the effects of COVID-19. I know that this can and has caused a lot of stress and challenges, especially when students are required to quarantine due to being a close contact. We appreciate everything you are doing at home. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and are a huge part of why our schools have remained open and operating effectively.

Please read below for details related to contact tracing, as well as helpful reminders for how to keep our school community healthy during this complex time.

Be well and stay safe,
John Alberghini, Superintendent

Contact Tracing Process

When we are notified of a positive case of COVID 19 in either a student or a staff member, there is a specific process that we follow as a district.

- We consult with the family and the Vermont Department of Health to determine the positive person's infectious period. If the person was infectious while they were in one of our district schools, we begin our contact tracing.
- Close contact with a COVID positive person is defined as contact:
 - within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes - true definition
 - Or if contact is for 90 minutes to 4 hours utilize a risk assessment even if not within 6 feet
 - Or if there is 4 hours or longer of shared air space even if not within 6 feet of each other.
- Areas we look for close contacts: classrooms, busses, sports teams, clubs, and musical activities.
- Once close contacts are determined, we establish the quarantine period.
- All close contacts are notified that they have been identified as a close contact either through our alert messaging system or by a phone call. All notifications are followed up with an email.
- Close contacts who are vaccinated and without symptoms do not need to quarantine. All others will complete their quarantine as directed by the letter that is sent to all close contacts.
- There are 2 really important things that can help our process.
- Please make sure that you have completed the Yearly Powerschool Update. If your child is vaccinated, please send a copy of the vaccination card to your school nurse.

Stay Home When Sick

We have sent this message home in a variety of different ways, but it is **very important** that your child not come to school if they are experiencing **any** illness symptoms. It is incredibly important that everyone follows this guidance. We are experiencing COVID in our school district. COVID symptoms look like both allergies and the common cold. Please do not send your child to school with any of the following symptoms as we will need to send them home: *Fever (100.4°F or higher), Nausea, Cough, Vomiting, Shortness of Breath, Diarrhea, Sore Throat, Fatigue, Congestion, Runny Nose, Muscle Aches, Loss of Smell or Taste, Headache*. If your child requires Tylenol, Advil or cold medicine for illness, they must stay home. We absolutely understand the burden that is put onto families keeping students home with what appears to be minor symptoms. But, by keeping all students with symptoms at home, we reduce the possibility of illness and COVID-19 spreading. Please note that anyone with illness symptoms, **regardless of their vaccination status**, must stay home - [Link To Student Home Health Screening](#).

Returning to School Following Illness

If your child's symptoms last less than 24 hours, please send them back to school. If they last longer than 24 hours, please be in touch with your family doctor and or get a PCR test for COVID 19 - no at-home antigen tests please. You can choose not to test or contact your child's doctor, but then your child must stay out of school until 10 days have passed since the symptoms first began. Please be sure to communicate with your child's school nurse about your child's return to school plan. Please read this important document from the Vermont Department of Health - [Vermont Department of Health Return to School Following Illness](#).

ANNOUNCEMENT!

SAFETY TIP LINE

In an effort to enhance school safety and security, the Agency of Education and Department of Public Safety have created a new anonymous school safety tip line. The goal is to provide students, faculty, staff, and members of the community with a tool to report concerning behaviors that may have a negative impact on our schools.

- Submitted tips will be received 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.
- Any student, parent/guardian, educator or member of the community can utilize this tip line at no cost.
- There are three ways to submit:
 - Go to www.SAFE4VT.org and click on "Submit a Tip"
 - Dial (844) SAFE4VT or (844) 723-3488 and speak with a call taker
 - Send a text to 274637, type in keyword SAFE4VT and then your tip.

For more information, please read this informational [letter](#).

ESSER III

Meaningful Consultation Forum

Schools in Vermont will soon be awarded funds through the American Rescue Plan act (ARP / ESSER III). A major component of how MMUUSD will spend ESSER III funds will depend on the feedback received on plans built by the administrative team and feedback from MMUUSD families, including students from historically marginalized families, students on IEPs, and ELL learners.

The US Department of Education requires LEAs to complete "Meaningful Consultation" and provide evidence public input was incorporated into the plan and the plan must be approved at the state level and then shared with the public.

To that end, we will host a virtual forum on Monday October 18th from 6:00pm-7:30pm to provide community members and families with an opportunity to offer ideas on how these funds might be spent (within the given federal spending parameters). The Google Meet link is provided below. Additionally, you can provide input via a Google Form linked [HERE](#) (also available on the MMUUSD website).

Meeting Details

Monday, October 18th, 2021 · 6:00 – 7:30pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ehf-rfyj-nnd>

Or dial: (US) +1 216-525-9239 PIN: 241 967 517#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/ehf-rfyj-nnd?pin=7443090171143>

Exciting News From the District!

Camels Hump Middle School

Banned Book Week!

This week was banned book week and our fabulous librarians created an interactive display of books that have been banned in some places in our country. They also created a "Solve the Mystery" activity related to what students learned about why books are banned and the process to ban a book. The national theme of banned book week this year is "Books Unite Us, Censorship Divides Us".



Underhill Central School

Mural!

Last year, students in Kindergarten through 4th grade had the opportunity to paint at least one piece of the 3D mural that was designed and installed by local artist Mary Lacey this month at Underhill Central School. We are so lucky to have had the opportunity to create the mural as a school community and work with the talented artist. The funding for the mural was generously donated by a former student and family of UCS. - Jenn Cote, Principal



Zucchini Relay!

On September 22, Underhill Central School celebrated the first day of fall with our annual Harvest Tasting and Zucchini Relay. The UCS garden is an important part of our school community, with students and families helping to prepare and plant in the spring, water and weed through the summer, and harvest in the fall. Over the next few months students will have opportunities to taste test the fruits and vegetables we grew this year. Our first taste test was dill pickles, made with the cucumbers and dill that were picked this summer. We also participated in the Zucchini Relay, an all school event in which students take turns running with giant zucchinis (and squash). Thank you to all the families who helped in the UCS garden this summer and to the Underhill community members who donated zucchinis for our relay!



International Day of Peace!

Underhill Central School students and staff celebrated the International Day of Peace. Classrooms chose a material from nature and each student laid down their object to create a mandala. Students then celebrated the Day of Peace singing Paz Y Libertad (Peace and Liberty) by Jose Luis Orozco led by music teacher Sara Bolio Gallaspie. The International Day of Peace is a reminder that all humans, young and old, need long lasting peace and equal opportunities to thrive.



Jericho Elementary School

Walking Celebration!

Keeping with the theme of "taking one step at a time," JES will have a school-wide walking celebration on the multi-use path on Friday, October 8th, 1:30-2:00 PM! - sponsored by the PBIS Committee

Disc Golf!

What an incredible opportunity Jericho Elementary School had welcoming **Uplay Disc Golf** for a day of outdoor learning for all. Students received expert instruction from some of the top professionals in the game of disc golf. This enriching physical education experience was highly motivating and taught with great energy.

The event kicked-off a disc golf unit in PE thanks to Mr. Steinman and Ms. Cowan. To further the excitement families were invited to attend the Green Mountain Championship at Smugglers' Notch Disc Golf Center free of charge! A big thanks to **Zoe AnDyke, UDisc Live, Disc Golf Pro Tour, JES Enrichment**, and all of the wonderful supporters that made this day possible.



Bike Week!

Students in grades K-4 at **Jericho Elementary School** started learning about bike and helmet safety in PE this week! This program will run through October 8th!



Brewster Pierce Memorial School

Professional Development

Staff at BPMS participated in professional development at the **Huntington Community Forest** this month learning about native plant species.



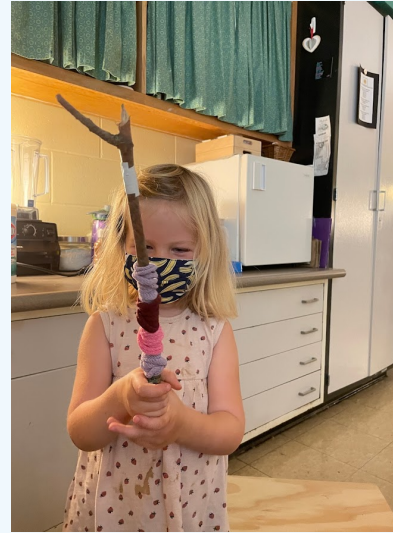
Richmond Elementary School

Pre-K! - Journey Sticks with Suzanne Self's Class!

On the last day of summer, preschoolers ventured into the outdoor classrooms behind C.H.M.S. to create JOURNEY STICKS! Besides JOURNEY STICKS being a fun tactile way of recording an outdoor adventure, they also help young readers and writers become familiar with LINES!

LINES are used for the formation of LETTERS!

Our completed JOURNEY STICKS have a wide range of beautiful, cotton loops wrapped around them. Each color represents one natural material we noticed on our journey into our outdoor world! For example, we saw purple grapes and many children chose to add a purple loop to their stick! Our JOURNEY STICKS will remain at school for the remainder of the month and then will travel home with your child!



Support Your Varsity Cougars!

Saturday, October 2nd:

Football vs Burr & Burton @ Home at 1PM

Tuesday, October 5th:

Field Hockey vs. Essex @ Home at 4PM

Girls Soccer vs. Essex @ Home at 4 PM

Wednesday, October 6th:

Golf D1 State Qualifier @ Stowe CC Time TBD

Boys Soccer vs. Essex AWAY at 4PM

Girls Volleyball vs. BFA St. Albans @ H at 4:30PM

Saturday, October 9th (HOMECOMING):

Girls Soccer vs. CVU @ Home at 10:00 AM

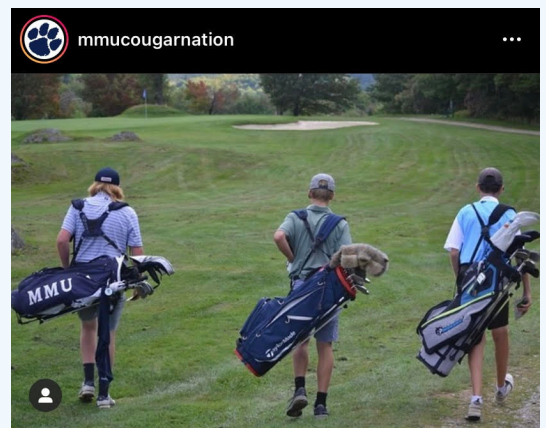
Field Hockey vs. Mt. Abraham @ Home at 11AM

Boys Volleyball vs. Enosburg @ Home at 12PM

Boys Soccer vs. South Burlington @ Home at 12:30 PM

Football vs. Colchester @ Home at 2PM

X-Country - Harwood Invitationals, Time TBD



IMPORTANT DATES:

- 9/27-10/8 -JES Bike Safety Week
- 10/12, 6PM- TEST of our Emergency Notification System
- 10/13- Early Dismissal, 12:30 PM
- 10/15- NO SCHOOL - Professional Development/ Parent Conferences

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!

- Long-term Substitute Nurse- Job ID: 3673416
- 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](#).

Food Service Announcement!

MMUUSD is happy to announce that whenever school is in session, and students are required to be quarantined due to COVID, the food service department will provide meals for students upon request. Please reach out to your school's administrator to access this benefit.

Important School Links

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



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