

District Happenings

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district@mmuusd.org

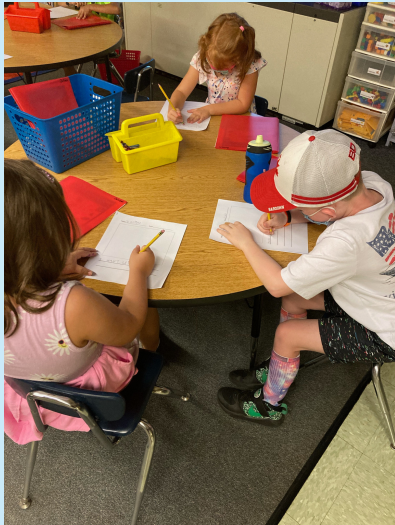


Welcome Back!

Dear MMUUSD School Community,

I want to welcome students, staff members and families back to MMUUSD, as we enter the 2021-22 school year! The past 18 months have been unprecedented and often challenging as we worked together to keep our school community safe and educate students in the midst of a once in a hundred year pandemic. I am grateful and inspired by the commitment, sacrifice and care provided by the entire MMUUSD school community. This says a lot about our ideals and principles, as well as the strength and quality of our school system and local communities.

COVID-19 continues to be a serious issue, needing accommodations and our attention. Fortunately, we have a strong team and experience in implementing practices and procedures to mitigate risk and maintain continuity of learning.



WELCOME- Continued:

State officials and medical experts are emphasizing the importance of vaccination in keeping our schools open to in-person learning and reducing the spread and health effects of COVID-19. Therefore, if you are eligible and considering getting vaccinated, I encourage you to do so. There are walk-in clinics happening daily around the state. You can find a location [HERE](#). In addition, Mount Mansfield Union High School will hold a free clinic on September 8th, from 9AM to 5PM (Pfizer 1st and 2nd dose). This clinic is for anyone age 12+, but please note anyone under the age of 18 will need a parent or guardian with them.

In addition to prioritizing the physical health and safety of all of our students, staff and school community, I want to share some of the following objectives that will guide our efforts and decision making in the 2021-22 school year:

- Support the Social and Emotional Health of Students and Staff
- Continue the District's Anti-bias and Equity Work
- Further Coordinate Literacy Instruction, Resources and Professional Development
- Implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)
- Increase Education Support Team (EST) Consistency and Coordination
- Ensure Alignment of Curriculum and Programming preK-12
- Graduate Effective, Engaged Global Citizens

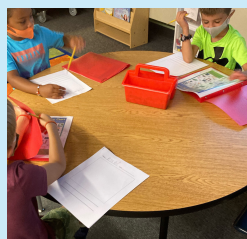
If you have questions about our education programs, school opening plans or need any assistance, please reach out to a teacher, school guidance counselor, principal or me. We want to inform and support you.

I look forward to a safe, successful and fulfilling school year.

Best regards,
John R. Alberghini
MMUUSD Superintendent



district@mmuusd.org



School Opening Plan - Updates

On June 14, 2021, Governor Scott ended the pandemic state of emergency for Vermont. This was the result of a high vaccination rate in our state and a reduction in COVID-19 cases. The end of the state of emergency lifted most COVID-19 restrictions and requirements for schools. Therefore, preK-12 education in MMUUSD and across Vermont looks a lot more like it did before the COVID-19 pandemic. This is welcome news to our school community and we extend our appreciation to Vermonters for their willingness to get vaccinated and the effort of state agencies to implement a coordinated vaccination plan.

COVID-19 requirements have been lifted, however, students under the age of 12 are not eligible to get vaccinated and we have seen a rise in COVID-19 infections in our area and state. Therefore, the Agency of Education (AOE) and Vermont Department of Health (VDH) are **strongly** recommending that preK-12 schools take steps to optimize the safety of students, staff and communities.

A key priority for MMUUSD is to keep students in our school buildings, participating in in-person instruction and learning. We appreciate your attention, cooperation and support in following the components of MMUUSD's 2021-22 school opening plan.

To read our full School Opening Plan (revisions and updates are in red font): [Click Here.](#)



Health Updates & Reminders

MASKS

Please model and practice mask-wearing with your children.

- At this time, staff and students are required to wear masks in all MMUUSD buildings.
- We ask that students come to school wearing a clean mask and have at least 2 extra masks at school. If an additional mask is needed during the school day or you do not have masks at home, there are masks available at each school.
- Gaiters are allowed as facial coverings as long as they are two layers, or folded to make two layers.
- Please do not send in masks with a one way valve.

[How to wear face coverings](#)

[How to Wear a Mask in School](#) (video)

district@mmuusd.org

Health Updates & Reminders

CONTACT TRACING FOR A COVID POSITIVE STUDENT OR STAFF PERSON

When the school is notified of a positive case of COVID-19 within our school community, we will work with the Vermont Department of Health to determine if the person was in school during their infectious period. If it is determined that the person was in school while infectious, we will go through a process of identifying all close contacts during the school day. Close contacts are defined as being within 6 feet of an infectious person for 15 minutes or greater. There are additional factors that are considered when determining close contacts.

- If your student is identified as a close contact you will be notified and provided guidance about quarantine if required. At this time, close contacts who are fully vaccinated and not showing any symptoms of COVID-19 do not have to quarantine.
- This year we will be notifying close contacts differently. We will send out an alert notifying you that your student has been identified as a close contact. You will be notified via text, email and a phone call. There will be a google form attached to the email. We ask you to complete the google form promptly. It is requested that you complete a form letting us know that you received the information. If we are unable to confirm that you received the information, we will try contacting you directly by phone. To make this process work effectively, it is imperative that we have your correct contact information. Please confirm or update your information in Powerschool if you have not already done so.

The Vermont Department of Health has put together information about returning to school after illness. Please take a look at the link: [Information for Families: Return to School Following Illness](#)
Please note that an at home test does not qualify as a COVID-19 PCR test.

STAY HOME WHEN SICK

Families are asked to screen their child for illness each day. Children must not come to school if they are sick. If your child has any of the following symptoms, they must stay home:

- Cough
- Fever (100.4 or greater)
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (diarrhea is defined as frequent loose or watery stools compared to a child's normal pattern)

COVID-19 VACCINATION RECORD

Thank you for sending in a copy of your student's COVID vaccination card. This is what we use to calculate the percentage of students vaccinated at each school. If you have not yet sent in your copy of the vaccination card or vaccination record, you can send it to your school nurse. Please note, that this is voluntary request and there is no requirement to send in the copy of the COVID vaccination record. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact your student's school nurse.

MMUHS VACCINATION CLINIC 9/8/21

Vermonters ages 12 and older are eligible to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine. We recommend and encourage all eligible Vermonters to get vaccinated. MMU High School will host two additional vaccine clinics this Fall. The dates are 9/8 and 9/29. This is a walk-in clinic with the Pfizer vaccine. No appointment is necessary. This clinic is for both those needing their first vaccine or those needing their second vaccine. The clinic will run from 9 AM – 5 PM. In addition, vaccination appointments are widely available for walk-ins for those 12 years of age and older. Please go [HERE](#) for additional information from the VDH or contact your healthcare provider.

Exciting News From the District!

- **"You've Been Booked!" - Jericho Elementary School**

Amy Tillman, our new Librarian at Jericho Elementary has started a school-wide reading activity called "You've Been Booked!" Four tote bags will move around the school with both English and Spanish picture books for the classes to read. The goal is for everyone to get "booked" four times in September! The theme of the month is "Learning About Ourselves and Others!"

- **New Multipurpose Room- Underhill Central School**

The multipurpose room at UCS received a makeover! Fresh white paint, black trim, and a new seamless floor created an airy and welcoming feel for students and staff to enjoy. Mrs. Baer's Kindergarten class was the first to use the space. Hula hoops were gliding across the floor and squeals of delight from the students were heard down the hall. We look forward to creating many wonderful memories with our community in this room.



- **Season 3, episode 1 of Cougar Connections! - MMUHS**

See what's happening at MMU HS! [Click Here!](#) This video is packed full of helpful information. And, it is just so good to see all of our students back in the building. Their energy is infectious!

- **Team Alchemy @ Hosmer Point! - CHMS**

The 8th grade team Alchemy tradition returned this year with their annual trip to Hosmer Point! Students had a great time braving the heat during the first week of school. They worked together on team building challenges, and competed for the compass challenge win with activities like an egg drop and paddle board races. Students cooled off by the lake with some free swimming or relaxing by the beach. The camp dogs loved seeing all the kids and encouraged them to toss tennis balls despite the heat. What a great start to the year!



- **Families took a stroll through the Forest Classroom! -BPMS**

Getting outside is good for the soul! And, for stopping the spread of germs. We are utilizing outdoor spaces as much as possible before the cold winter months come!



- **PICTURE DAY IS COMING!**

- Brewster Pierce Memorial- 9/9
- Richmond Elementary School- 9/13
- JES- 9/14- K,1,3 9/15- 2,4
- BRMS- 9/22- 5&6, 9/23- 7&8
- UCS- 9/30
- SMILIE Memorial- TBD
- UID - TBD



ESSER III Grant Funds

ESSER III (aka, ARP ESSER) is a grant that is associated with the American Rescue Plan (ARP). MMUUSD will be awarded approximately \$544,688 later this fall. A major component of how MMUUSD will spend these funds will depend on the feedback received on plans built by the administrative team and feedback from MMUUSD families and community members, including students from historically marginalized families, students on IEPs, and ELL learners. The US Department of Education requires LEAs to engage in "meaningful consultation" and provide evidence public input was incorporated into the plan and the plan must then be approved at the state level and then shared with the public. One way to provide input to the MMUUSD administrative team is through the following Google Form (this form is also found on our website at: <https://www.mmuusd.org/district-home/esser>). We will continue to collect feedback until the end of October. Additionally, on Monday October 18th from 6:00pm-7:30pm MMUUSD will host a virtual feedback session for parents, community members, students and other stakeholders. Individuals will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide input into how we might best utilize the ESSER III funds. More details for this session will be forthcoming.

Upcoming Events:

- NO SCHOOL- 9/6 - Labor Day
- Free Vaccine Clinic at MMU HS 9/8, 9AM-5PM
- School District Negotiations Committee Meeting: 9/9, 10:00 AM
- School Board Meeting: 9/13, 6:30 PM

We're Hiring!

- 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.](#)

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

The logo for MMUUSD, with the letters 'MMU' in dark green and 'USD' in a lighter green.

Important School Links

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



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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](#)