



## Principal's Message Immunization Questions

I have received several communications from parents recently connected to questions regarding our school district's policies related to student immunizations. It is my belief that these questions have been predicated by news reports related to legislation being proposed in Augusta to require that all students be required to receive a full slate of vaccinations before entering school or being allowed to attend school, with no exemptions or very limited exemptions. Currently the RSU #12 policy titled, "Immunization of Students" (Code: JLCB) is consistent with Maine statutes in stating:

*" All students who enroll in the school unit schools are required by Maine law to present a certificate of immunization or evidence of immunization or immunity against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (chicken pox).*

*Non-immunized students shall not be permitted to attend school unless one of the following conditions are met:*

- A. The parents/guardians provide to the school written assurance that the child will be immunized within 90 days of enrolling in school or his/her first attendance in classes, whatever date is earlier. This option is available only once to each student during their school career; or*
- B. The parents/guardians provide a physician's written statement each year that immunization against one or more diseases may be medically inadvisable (as defined by law/regulation); or*
- C. The parents/guardians state in writing each year that immunization is contrary to their sincere religious or philosophical beliefs.*

*The Superintendent shall exclude from school any non-immunized student when there is a clear danger to others as provided by law."*

As you can see, our policy is very specific as to the expectations of parents in meeting the needs of the immunization of students law. With the proposed legislation, there would be even stricter regulations and the intent seems to be, again, that all students will be required to be immunized. It is important to recognize that this legislation will need to pass through a number of steps before it would even be brought before the Maine House and Senate for consideration so no one needs to overreact at this time. With that being said, it is important to recognize what is being proposed and how it might impact your family. I would also recommend that you share your viewpoint with our local elected representatives as they would need to be informed of your opinions before taking any legislative action.

**Office:** Please remember to send your child to school with a note if they are going to a different destination on the bus after school. It helps to avoid last minute phone calls to the school, which can make dismissal very chaotic. We appreciate the advance notice and thank you for not calling with these changes after 2:00 p.m.

**Food Pantry:** Our pantry is looking great! Donations continue to be welcome at any time!!

**Flocking for Food:** *The Flock is getting ready to take flight again. The snowstorm delayed take off, however, the birds are ready to land on a new pile of snow this week!!!*

**Health:** Spring sports are just around the corner! Please make sure your child has a recent physical (within the last 2 years) on file with the nurse.

**Kitchen:** There is now an easier way to pay your students lunch bill online! Please go to our school website, under parents is "My School Bucks" and sign up there! Just as a reminder when sending money in for lunch accounts, please be sure to label it with the name of your student(s) and the amount(s) to be deposited into their account. We also encourage everyone to fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch form. It is open to everyone! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Kara Waller or Amanda Lincoln in the kitchen.

**Click below to check out the Whitefield School Collaborative Problem-Solving Project!**

<http://www.svrsu.org/o/whes/page/whitefield-collaborative-problem-solving-project>

### Grades Pre K- 1

**Pre K:** Thank you to all the families that participated in our classroom during read with me. This was the first week of Unit 4. We have read *Max's Dragons Shirt* and *Dog's Colorful Day*. Some of the classroom activities included painting dragon shirts, mixing colors with finger paints, AAB patterns, rhyming, and ending sounds. Please come visit to see some of our amazing artwork.

**Beck:** The K Krew will be working on making friends feel special next week. We have been working on Writing and sounding out our words. The K Krew has been hunting for VOWELS this week in our Writing, in our classroom, and in the hallways. In Science we are talking about Weather. Have a great weekend! We are hoping that we can get outside for recess next week!

**Lamothe:** First graders worked on fact families in math this past week. They understand subtraction as an unknown addend problem. In writing we continue to work on producing complete sentences with appropriate ending marks. The children are excited to add drawings or visuals to their stories. We have added 10 more words to our Sight Word List. We practice these daily here at school during Literacy. All first grade sight words have been sent home. Making flash cards and practicing these words even for 5 minutes each day makes a big difference. Please keep reading at home with your child and send R.E.D. (READ EVERY DAY) bags back on Friday. Thanks to the families who sent in extra snacks for the class. Star Student was Lincoln.

### Grades 2-4

**Brewer:** This week we focused on finding facts in informational texts. We have discussed table of contents, glossary, index, labels, photographs, headings and bullet points and how they help us use informational text and nonfiction writing. We will begin writing our own informational texts soon. In math we are working on measuring using standard units of measurement. Ask a second grader what this means. We are in need of paper towels. Thanks to Blake's family for sending in Just Because cupcakes to brighten up a cold, wintery day.

**Northrup:** We will be having our chapter 5 test in math on Monday, March 18th. Please go over the review packet that will be sent home on the 14th. Please be sure your child is ready for school each day. Many students are forgetting sneakers, snacks, and homework. WishList- paper towels and wipes Student of the Week- Grace

**Trask:** The class has made great strides in their multiplication facts. Several students have mastered the facts through the twelves.

At HVNC this week the students studied the skulls and pelts of various mammals. By their observations, the class could group the animals as carnivores, herbivores, or omnivores. The students also noticed external and internal structures that help the different animals survive in their environments.

I want to thank the parents that chaperoned. I appreciate all the help on such a cold day.

**PBIS News-** We had another fantastic assembly last week, celebrating the successes and hard work of students. During the month of March we will be focusing on Acts of Kindness. Students were also able to watch the Life Vest Video that supports acts of kindness along with last month's Anti-Bullying Project through Duck Tape. Students will submit any acts of kindness they have displayed/given to each other or staff. These submissions will then be drawn from during our next PBIS assembly for the chance to win a gift card to Dunkin Donuts!!!! Our next assembly is scheduled for **March 29th at 1:30.**



### Middle School News

**Norris:** Our studies of the American colonies has led us to learning about the French and Indian War. Students chose a topic that was linked to this time in our history, and we are planning to present our findings in chronological order. Our culmination will be the 1763 Treaty of Paris, but a major component will be a scale model representation of the Battle of Quebec (1759). \* In preparation for our trip to Boston in May, we are memorizing Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride". Also, D.A.R.E. will begin in a week or two.

**McCormick:** We are so excited to report that some of our salmon have hatched. It was a tough week last week because we thought that all of the eggs had died. On Thursday we noticed that there were a few that were swimming around.

**Mathews:** Students are continuing work in nonfiction texts. 6th and 7th graders are focusing on comparing the point of view of multiple authors, while 8th graders are working on synthesizing information across texts.

**Howard:** 6th grade has been working with the Coordinate Plane and learning about Absolute Value. 7th grade has been combining like terms and using Distributive Property when solving expressions. 8th grade has added another way to figure out slope of a line:  $y = mx$ . Have a safe weekend.

8th Grade will be hosting a fundraiser dinner at Aunt Gin's on Tues., March 26th - more information to come.

### Resource News

**Brann:** The students reviewed their writing that they had completed at the beginning of the year and compared it to their writing today. Huge gains were seen! We are pleased with the progress students are making in reading, writing, and math.

**Grady/Richards:** Did you know that AR quizzes can be taken at home? Most students know their password. Have them read a book and take a quiz to see if they are understanding what they read. The link is found on the student resource section of the Whitefield School page. Have a great weekend!

### Art - Library - Music - PE

**Martin:** The art room is looking for donations. If you have any craft items or recycled products please send them to the office. Thank you!

**Abbott:** 3rd and 4th graders will be doing online practice tests for the MEA's next week. This will help them become more familiar with the format.

**Please click the following link to go to the Whitefield Town Library's homepage!** <https://whitefieldlibrary.org/>

**Simpson:** PK-2 students have begun their throwing unit. This is one of my favorite units to teach. Ask your kiddo about which game has been their favorite so far. Also, ask them if they can name the skill cues that go along with underhand throwing!

**Morgan:** The 4th grades is off to a great start on the recorders! Today I will be at the 6th grade Honors Music Festival in Freeport with a few select students from Chelsea and Whitefield. These students auditioned and were chosen to represent RSU #12 at the music festival for Band and Chorus.

*Have a great weekend!*