

October 23, 2020

Greetings Main Dunstable Families,

This week we welcomed our Kindergarten students via the hybrid model and First Graders will join us on November 2nd. Although protocols and procedures have changed, the innocence and spirit of our youngest of children has not. They are refreshing and our staff is so proud of the way these little ones are adapting to in-person schooling in a less than ideal time.

Here is a reminder of our [Arrival/Dismissal Procedure](#). Parents, please remain in your cars as students disembark/load from the right side of your vehicles. Also, please do not attempt to drive around one another. As more grade levels are added to in-person schooling, this will help us maintain safety and efficiency.

As you are all aware, we are working under a dual system of hybrid and remote. We are also operating in a time whereby the belief systems within our community diverge. Although our staff strives to put forth standards and expectations set by the state and district, the feedback from families aligns with the "Goldilocks" narrative. For some, it is too hard... for some, it is too little... for some it is just right. I would like to credit the Main Dunstable parent community for being so understanding of and sensitive to this range of beliefs. The teachers have been impressed by your level of communication with them in this regard and the kindness and support that you are providing during this complex time.

Some of you may have seen a feature on the news whereby a few teachers in Nashua have been building desks to help students establish a location within their homes for remote learning. The funding for this effort has been supported by Nashua educators and outside community members. We have 2 desks remaining at Main Dunstable. Please call the school (966-2320) should you wish to have one of these desks. First come, first served.

I wish to call your attention to a few upcoming events and important dates:

October 26-30

Red Ribbon Week - This year's theme is Be Happy. Be Brave. Be Drug Free. The Red Ribbon campaign is a week in which schools across the country take a unified stand to make healthy choices and commit to a drug free lifestyle. At Main Dunstable our hope is to use this week to promote healthy habits and teach students that the choices they make affect their bodies and their minds. During PE classes Mr. Cardin will be talking with students about the importance of making smart choices and encouraging healthy habits.

October 26-November 8

Online Scholastic Book Fair - If interested, you may participate by clicking <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com>. Also please reference [Premium Digital Book Fair Flyer F20](#) for information. Any further questions may be directed to Mrs. Hedrich. Her email is: hedrichp@nashua.edu.

October 30

Costume Day – Wear your costume (nonviolent in nature) to remote school that day and post your child's picture on the MDES PTO Facebook page.

Tuesday, November 3

All students study remotely: Election Day

November 4/November 12

Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences- Your child's teacher will be contacting you to schedule an appointment.

Wednesday, November 11

Schools and offices closed: Veterans Day

Monday and Tuesday, November 23 and 24

All students study remotely ahead of Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend

Wednesday-Friday, November 25-27

Schools and offices closed: Thanksgiving Weekend

Monday-Wednesday, December 21-23

All students study remotely ahead of Year-End School Vacation

Thursday, December 24 -Friday, January 1

Schools closed: Year-End School Vacation

Friendly Reminders

- **School Nurse:** Should you have any questions regarding health procedures and protocols, please contact our school nurse, Mrs. Lindsey Anderson by email andersonl@nashua.edu or telephone (966-2325). Her [virtual nurse's office](#) is rich with information so you may wish to start there.
- **Daily Screening:** Parents/guardians are instructed to daily screen their children for symptoms of Covid-19 or risk factors before allowing the child to travel to school. Students who present with any of these new and unexplained symptoms during school will be sent home immediately.
- **Travel Requirement:** Individuals must self-quarantine for 14 days from last day of travel if one has been outside of New England, even if (s)he produces a negative Covid-19 test result.
- **Positive Covid-19 Steps:** [5 Steps to Expect if Student or Staff Member tests positive for COVID-19](#)
- **Masks:** Masks will be worn by all staff and students throughout the day and while on the school bus. They should cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly. *Masks with exhale valves, gaiters, buffs and bandanas are not acceptable.* Mask breaks will be short and frequent and removed for eating and outside play. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school building. Please send your child to school each day with his/her own mask.
- **Provisions IN the building:**
 - **Social Distancing:** We have signage and markings to assist students to remember social distancing. We understand this will be a very difficult concept for our youngest of children and will do our best to support them in this practice. One-way traffic in the hallway will be used when possible.
 - **Student Belongings:** Students will be allowed to bring backpacks, lunches, snacks and water bottles as well as their schoolwork and materials, as necessary. Classroom materials will be stored per student rather than in communal bins.
 - **Illness:** A separate space will be designated for anyone showing symptoms associated with COVID-19 and parents will need to come pick up their child immediately.
 - **Visitors:** No visitors or volunteers will be allowed in the school building at this time.
 - **Lunch:** Students will be eating lunches in their classrooms. School lunch is FREE for any students who wish to partake through Dec. 23rd. These will be delivered to the classrooms.
- **Playground:** We are so excited about the progress on our new playground! At this point, please be aware that ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS IN NASHUA REMAIN CLOSED.

Be well.

With Gratitude,

Kelley Paradis, MDES Principal