

Great Salt Bay School

Weekly Bulletin - February 12, 2021

The mission of the Great Salt Bay School is to provide a nurturing, safe and enjoyable environment in which all children are challenged and inspired to pursue excellence in all aspects of their education.

Striving to Be Better Than Our Best!

Calendar Update

February 14 - Valentine's Day (We love your kids!)
February 15 - 19 - February Break



Letter from Our Superintendent

February 11, 2021

Dear Staff and Families,

Each year many families and school staff use vacation week as an opportunity for travel. This year, however, the US and Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warn that such travel brings with it additional risks for contracting and transmitting COVID-19. It is critically important that our school communities continue to do everything they can in order to keep our schools open, safe, and able to provide in-person instruction.

The US and Maine CDC have issued strong guidance to the people of Maine to continue to limit our interactions and travel at this time.

I encourage our staff and families to know the risks and the requirements for travel and to communicate with school principals and school nurses about possible travel plans so that our schools can continue to operate safely and so that you can plan for any possible absences that are related to quarantine requirements.

If a staff member or student travels to a non-exempt state (any state other than NH & VT) they will need to complete a 10 day quarantine or submit documentation of a negative Covid-19 test to their School Nurse either prior to or upon arrival at school on Monday, February 22. In accordance with Maine travel guidelines, staff or students who travel within the US to any state other and New Hampshire or Vermont are required to either:

1. Obtain and receive a negative COVID-19 antigen or molecular (PCR, NAAT, or isothermal) test result within 72 hours prior to arrival back into Maine and forego the 10-day quarantine.
2. Travelers may be tested upon arrival in Maine as well but must then quarantine while awaiting receipt of their test results. A negative COVID-19 antigen or molecular (PCR, NAAT, or isothermal) test result will allow the traveler to leave quarantine early.
3. Complete a 10-day quarantine upon arrival in Maine and continue to monitor for signs and symptoms for an additional four (4) days.

CDC has also provided guidance as it relates to international travel. A 'frequently asked questions' resource can be found

at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>. It must be noted that the current risk assessment level for COVID-19 is "4", or VERY HIGH, for nearly every country. You can review risk levels by country at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html>

Remember, returning to work or school after traveling is not dependent on the length of time spent within another state or country- a single day visit still requires any person to quarantine or test if they are over 12 months old. All individuals who are in quarantine should stay home and not have in-person contact with others unless there is an emergency.

Information about Maine testing sites can be found at:

<https://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine/keepmainehealthy/testing>

To protect our students, school staff, and neighbors, please continue to follow best practice safety protocols: wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands and monitor for symptoms. We look forward to a safe and smooth return to school after a restful break.

Sincerely,

Craig Jurgensen, Superintendent

Parenting Resource for Middle School Parents

<https://www.parenteenconnect.org/>

“ParenTeen Connect is designed by social-emotional learning experts as an at-home, family-engagement resource. This online experience is loaded with videos, resources, and useful advice to help teens and the adults in their lives address hot-button topics. The site complements the Second Step® Middle School Program both as a stand-alone parent resource and in connection with Middle School Program classroom activities.

What’s the Big Idea?

When you’re a parent of young children, there’s an abundance of books, websites, and groups for support, but when your kids get to be teens, finding those same sources of support becomes more challenging. And it’s no secret that raising teens can be a struggle. As a parent, you may even feel like you’re failing while all the other parents have got it handled—which couldn’t be farther from the truth. ParenTeen Connect seeks to normalize the challenges that come with raising teens through interviews with real families—they’re here to show you that you’re not the only ones struggling. ParenTeen Connect also offers research-based, expert advice on real-life issues through a partnership with renowned parenting expert Dr. Laura Kastner. At ParenTeenConnect.org, you’ll find the tools you need to make adolescence less of a struggle and a lot more fun.” (<https://www.parenteenconnect.org/learn-more/>)

Free Audiobooks and Video Read Alouds

KidLit TV

Children can experience authors and illustrators reading their works through [KidLit TV's Read Out Loud](#) program, which includes an array of titles featuring diverse people and cultures. Find more read-alouds, plus podcasts, activity ideas, book trailers, and more at their [award-winning website](#).

Story Time from Space

[Story Time from Space](#) is a project of the Global Space Education Foundation, which sends children's books to the International Space Station. While in space, astronauts record themselves on video reading these books to the children of Earth and share them on the Story Time from Space website.

Storyline Online

At [Storyline Online](#), SAG-AFTRA Foundation records well-known actors reading children's books and makes graphically dynamic videos so that children around the world can enjoy favorite stories, such as *The Kissing Hand*, *A Bad Case of Stripes*, and *Stellaluna*.

Julie's Library

Join Julie Andrews for story time at [Julie's Library](#)! Julie and her daughter, children's author and educator Emma Walton Hamilton, invite you into their library to read their favorite children's books. Every story comes to life with sound, music and activities. Authors, kids and other special guests chime in, too.

Lee & Low Storytime

Publisher Lee & Low Books' [Lee & Low Storytime](#) has a growing library of author read alouds which include several titles read in Spanish.

PBS KIDS Read-Alongs

[PBS KIDS Read-Alongs](#) offers families a place to come together and read along with favorite titles read by celebrities, including Michelle Obama, and PBS KIDS authors.

PBS Books Storytime

[PBS Books Storytime](#) is a resource developed by the PBS Books channel to offer author read-aloud stories and book features for educators, libraries and families. The segments feature children's book authors and others in "Read-Aloud" segments and/or video features on new and best-loved children's books.

Goodnight with Dolly

[Goodnight With Dolly](#) features Dolly Parton reading aloud titles from the Imagination Library. Snuggled in bed with her Imagination Library book, Dolly shares stories that are just right for this moment in time.

Read, Wonder, and Learn!

Author Kate Messner's [Read, Wonder, and Learn!](#) compiles a growing collection of resources from favorite authors and illustrators that include everything from first-chapter and picture book video read-alouds to drawing and writing mini-lessons.

Wishing Everyone A Happy & Safe February Vacation!