

Superintendent Monthly Report

General Updates: March 8, 2022

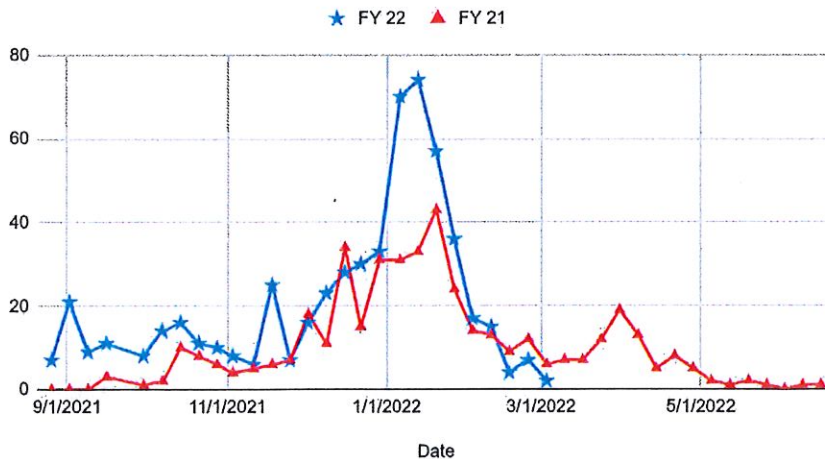
COVID Updates

As of Monday, February 28, mask wearing is no longer mandated in schools or on school buses. The vast majority of staff and students chose not to wear masks while at school. However, many students and staff have been wearing masks intermittently.

On Friday, March 5, COVID home test kits were sent home with students and staff. We hope parents will find this resource helpful as we navigate the rest of the school year mask free.

Since February 24, Canterbury has had two new reported cases of COVID. This is a remarkable decrease in cases. Below is a table reflecting the total number of weekly cases in Canterbury. Current trends in weekly cases continue to mirror last year's trend.

Estimated Weekly COVID Cases in Canterbury



Non-Lapsing Account

The Board of Education and the Board of Finance is considering the creation of a Non-lapsing account for the school district. This account will allow the Board of Education to deposit a portion of an annual surplus into an account to offset the impact of future unanticipated expenses. The concept was reintroduced at a recent Tri-Board meeting in February. The Board of Finance held a special meeting workshop to further discuss the concept. A draft MOU has been created for the Board to discuss at its March 8 meeting and the Board of Finance will discuss the concept at its next meeting.

Calendar

The 2022-23 calendar was created with the intent of better aligning to surrounding towns professional development calendars and the start of the school year. As I continue to receive updated calendars from surrounding communities, we may consider some changes to next year's calendar at our April BOE meeting. I will also be sending a survey to parents once parent conferences are complete to get their perspective on times and dates for next year's parent conferences.

Personnel

We will have a long-term substitute teacher in social studies at BMS beginning March 21. A candidate has been tentatively selected for this position, however, final details are not complete at this time. We will also have a long-term substitute for science at BMS beginning April 25, 2022. This position has been posted.

New Phonics Program

The ELA Phonics Committee has completed its investigation of several phonics programs and is recommending Really Great Reading (RGR) as Canterbury's primary phonics resource for grades Pre-K to Grade 3. Canterbury is currently using a mix of phonics resources and implementing this new program will provide consistency.

The committee reviewed several programs and narrowed its search to two programs. After a three-month review process, the committee is recommending RGR. RGR is a program used to teach foundational reading and spelling skills. It is a supplemental program to the Core Reading Program and would be used in combination with the Heggerty program for Pre-K to 2, which focuses on phonological awareness. RGR is scientifically research-based and follows the pedagogy of the Science of Reading, which is critical because when students are taught decoding and language skills explicitly and systematically, they are able to comprehend text and move from learning to read to reading to learn.