

November/December Newsletter

January 24, 2022

New Tuition High School Policy!

On January 11, 2022 the Board updated its High School Tuition policy, which is located on our website at <https://www.canterburypublicschools.org>. Two important changes include when students can request a transfer once enrolled in high school. Those wishing to go to a different high school next year must notify the superintendent's office by January 15 of the current school year. As this is our first year of implementation, flexibility will be provided for students wishing to attend a different high school next year. Please contact the superintendent's office as soon as possible if you wish to switch schools next year. Additionally, once the school year has started, transfers within the year will only be granted prior to October 1 of the given school year. Each of these new procedures will help the district manage its fiscal responsibilities regarding high school tuition.



2022-2023 Budget Priorities

The district is in the beginning phases of building the budget for next school year. The Board will be discussing options to increase local funding for school athletic programs. Each year the Board prioritizes maintaining reasonable class sizes in the primary grades. The Board will also strive to maintain the restored World Language program and Music program at BMS. It is also the responsibility of the Board to continue with capital improvement projects. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.



COVID Updated Procedures

On December 27, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated guidance regarding the duration of quarantine and isolation for COVID-19. On December 31, 2021 the Connecticut DPH released their own updated guidance for school districts that allows them the choice to make changes in their operating rules regarding quarantine, isolation, testing, and return to in-school activities. In general, these suggested changes shift the focus from contact tracing to isolating individuals with symptoms. Up to this point, the district has maintained that a student's quarantine or isolation period remained 10 days. **Effective Tuesday, January 25 the district will transition to the DPH guidance allowing the quarantining period to be reduced to five days for staff and students.** Our nurses have been in contact with families regarding students' return dates to school.

Additionally, in place of daily notification of COVID cases in schools, all updates will be provided on the district website for review. We will no longer be sending notices via text messages. A cumulative table will be provided on the website to include the date, school, and last day the individual was at the school.

Finally, the school nurse has been providing symptomatic students and students who may have been close contacts with a home COVID testing kit when needed. The school still has a supply of masks for students and staff that need them.

Your support and patience through this challenging year is greatly appreciated.

In Partnership,

Steve Rioux

