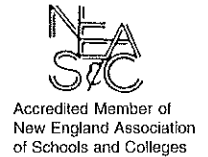


Maine School Administrative District No. 32

Ashland
Garfield Plantation
Masardis
Oxbow Plantation

Office of the Superintendent
P.O. Box 289 • 180 Presque Isle Road • Ashland, Maine 04732
Telephone (207) 435-3661
Fax: (207) 435-8421



Gehrig T. Johnson, Ph. D.
Superintendent of Schools



Tracy Long
Administrative Assistant

August 11, 2021

Dear Ashland District School Parents, Guardians, Students, Staff and Community Members,

As we approach the upcoming 2021-22 school year, there are many questions regarding the safety protocols and requirements for the return to school in September. Recently, the American Association of Pediatrics recommended that all students and staff wear masks in school. Governor Mills announced that Maine would recommend, but not require masks in classrooms. At this time, individual school districts have the authority to develop protocols for safety that make sense for their district.

Ashland District School will continue to provide full in-person instruction when students return to school. ADS will not be offering remote learning as an alternative to in-class instruction. The school plans to begin the 2021-22 school year on September 7, 2021. Certain protocols and practices will be kept in place to help to ensure the safety of our staff and students within the building, on the grounds and on school transportation. These policies are briefly described below. Please keep in mind that these policies are subject to change based on the prevalence of the coronavirus in our schools, community and region. ADS is also subject to changes made at the state and federal level and we will follow emergency requirements, mandates and laws as they come into effect.

Masks – Ashland District School will not be requiring masks in the school building or on school grounds at this time. The masks will remain optional for all staff and students. The district will continue to keep a close eye on case counts and reserve the right to change this plan if we are seeing an increase in cases in our schools and communities or mandates dictate such changes.

Transportation – The CDC has required that face masks be worn by all people on any form of public transportation, including school buses and vans. We will require that all students and staff wear a mask on school-sponsored transportation. Students will be allowed to sit up to two people per seat on bus runs. Ventilation will be increased with open windows as long as the weather allows. This also applies to vocational runs, field trips and co-curricular/athletic trips.

Distancing – ADS will still maintain three feet of spacing in the classroom and general areas of our building for all grade levels.

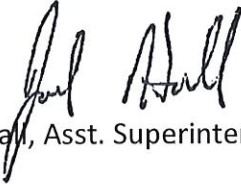
In addition, we will also be utilizing other CDC health recommendations including regular hand-washing, sanitization, contact tracing, disinfection of spaces, increased ventilation and contact tracing procedures, when necessary.

Further information regarding Ashland District School's Safe Return to School Plan can be found on the school website, www.sad32.org. Thank you for your continued patience and support of Ashland District School. Our goal is to educate students at the highest level while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all.

Yours in Education,



Dr. Gehrig Johnson, Superintendent



Joel Hall, Asst. Superintendent/Principal