



Southbridge Public Schools

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January 22, 2021

Dear Families,

According to the most recent weekly COVID-19 data released by the Massachusetts Department of Health, Southbridge remains in the “red” category this week. Southbridge, along with surrounding towns, has been in this category continuously for several weeks. Despite this, the percent of positive COVID-19 cases that we see among students and staff remains lower than in the community at large. We encourage you to continue with preventative measures in your daily life such as wearing masks, social distancing, hand washing, and avoiding large gatherings. These measures, when practiced consistently, protect your family’s health and the health of others around you.

The second quarter for Southbridge Middle School, Southbridge High School, and Southbridge Academy ends on Friday, January 29 and grades will be available in the Aspen Family Portal by Friday, February 5. For our elementary schools, second trimester progress reports will be available during the first week of February.

Families of students at Southbridge Middle School received a letter by email from Principal House this week with information about learning models at the middle school. This letter asks you to request any learning model changes by Wednesday, January 27. I encourage you to read this update, which is also available on the homepage of our website in English and in Spanish. If you have questions about learning models at other schools, please contact your child’s school directly.

BinaxNOW testing for COVID-19 is now available for students and staff at our schools. This system is meant to respond to questionable symptoms that arise while at school. We still strongly encourage you to keep your student home if they display symptoms of COVID-19. However, some students and staff may experience the onset of symptoms while at school. The BinaxNOW tests will allow us to rapidly respond to these situations, and they are considered a preliminary diagnostic test. If an individual tests positive after a BinaxNOW test, they must also follow up with a regular PCR test. You can find more about this and answers to other frequently asked questions about testing on the homepage of our website.

I hope you have a restful weekend. Thank you for all of your hard work to keep your students in good health and engaged in their academic work.

Regards,

Jeffrey A. Villar, Ph.D.
Receiver/Superintendent
Southbridge Public Schools

