

January Update

Annie Sullivan Middle School

Advisory Focus

During the month of December, students focused on identifying priorities in their lives and also roadblocks that tend to get in the way of having success. As the first trimester came to a close, students reflected on "glows and grows" from the first part of the year. Students looked at strengths or positives to celebrate, as well as identifying areas they can continue to improve. We want students to be reflective and think with a critical eyes as they try to be the very best version of themselves, to align with being "reflective and innovator problem solver" within the FPS Portrait of a Graduate. As we are preparing for student-led conferences in March, these reflections will be helpful to help guide the conversation.

Composting at ASMS

Our students have been doing a great job and have embraced the new composting program at Annie Sullivan Middle School. The amount of food waste is still excessive, but at least we are reducing the impact in landfills.

NBC news recently visited ASMS to highlight the program and hear from students about their experience. Congratulations to Marina, Shayla, and Ellie for representing us!

Watch the video [here](#).

Attendance Matters!

As we continue to move beyond the years of schooling heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are still seeing impacts on student attendance that are difficult to resolve without family support. If you receive an email or letter from school administration about attendance concerns, please know we want to partner with you to resolve issues as a first step. We regularly monitor attendance, but given the significant number of students who are approaching chronic absenteeism this year, your efforts at home tend to have a larger impact than we can facilitate on our own.

When you receive communication from us, please keep in mind that we are [following MA state guidance](#) about what constitutes chronic absenteeism, as outlined in our handbook: "Massachusetts defines **Chronically Absent** as missing at least 10% of days enrolled (e.g., 18 days absent if enrolled for 180) regardless of whether the absences are considered excused, unexcused and/or for

disciplinary reasons. Being chronically absent can have a significant impact on a student's ability to read at grade level, perform academically, and graduate on time."

Regardless of the reason for absences or tardies, we will be communicating with families with this metric in mind. To support our efforts to improve attendance, please reach to Ms. Ramos to let her know the reason for the absence or tardy. Please be sure to read the health reminder from our school nurse related to this.

Health Reminder from Mrs. Daly

As we enter the cold and flu season, we are asking for your collaboration in helping to ensure we keep our schools, students, and staff healthy and safe. As per Franklin Public Schools policy, please remember and adhere to the following protocols:

Keep your child home from school if :

- your child has a fever of 100 degrees or higher
- your child is vomiting or has diarrhea
- your child has a contagious illness such as flu, strep throat, chicken pox, COVID, etc. If unsure, please contact the school nurse for guidance
- your child's eye is pink, red, or itchy, and/or a crusty drainage from the eye is present
- your child has tested positive on a rapid antigen or PCR test for COVID and/or awaiting results of COVID testing (**all positive COVID test results should be reported to school nurse for return to school guidance/masking protocol upon return**)

Students may return to school when :

- fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medicines
- 24 hours after the start of antibiotic therapy for a bacterial infection
- 24 hours without vomiting or diarrhea

We are committed to maintaining the health and wellness of our students and staff. Thank you for your help, and as always, please contact the Health Office with any additional questions and or concerns that you may have.

SAVE THE DATE: STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

This year, our students will lead conferences on two half days in March (March 8th and March 9th). Students and parents will attend a portion of one of the days to review work and engage in a conversation about their learning.

Please save the date as we expect all students and families to participate! Students will be dismissed on these days at 10:45am and then the conferences will take place from 11:15am-2:10pm.

Important: 8th grade Information

The next few months will bring about important transitional events for our eighth graders as they will be moving on to high school at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year. *Please keep in mind that*

any requests for letters of recommendation should be submitted by the end of the week in order to allow for enough time to complete prior to the deadlines.

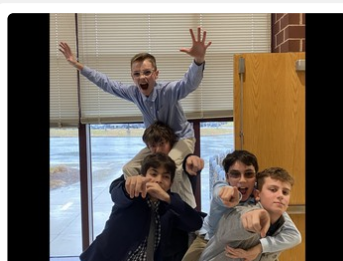
Here are some important dates for 8th grade students and families:

- Tuesday, January 17 - Friday, February 3: 8th grade teachers make course recommendations
- Thursday, February 2: Panther Pride Event at Franklin High School (6pm)
- Friday, February 3: Franklin High School Music Program visits ASMS (during Flex)
- Monday, February 6: Tri County Interviews at ASMS (for those students who have applied)
- Monday, February 6 - Friday, February 17: 8th grade course selection in Aspen

Spirit Days

Each month, we will have a new spirit day with a different theme. All students are encouraged to participate as the Flex with the most participation will earn a prize later on in the school year. This is a great way to show school spirit and have fun with peers.

The spirit day theme will be announced on morning announcements the week before/week of the spirit day. For the month of January, the spirit day on January 18 will have a Tropical theme.



ASMS PCC Facebook Groups

The PCC is working hard to help us offer many fun events to our students.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, December 13 at 11:00am. Here is the [link](#) to join the Google Meet.

We invite you to join the following Facebook groups to stay engaged, updated, and connected. Each grade-specific group will have their own moderators separate from the PCC. The groups are a great place to ask questions and to find/share information.

[Annie Sullivan Middle School PCC Group](#), [Grade 6](#), [Grade 7](#), [Grade 8](#)

Substitute Teachers Wanted!

Interested in a career in education but not able to commit to a full-time role? Committed to the success of Franklin Public Schools? Consider applying to become a substitute teacher! The work of our substitute teachers is an essential function to the smooth operation of our programs and we value that contribution. Without the support and dedication of our substitute teachers and staff, our

educational program would be greatly hampered. We place the care of our students in their hands daily. Substitute teaching can be an ideal way to supplement your income while setting your own schedule. Improve your classroom skills as you try out the different schools, grade levels and instructional practices. Ideally a teaching license and experience working with children is always preferred, however we will consider those applicants with a post high school education, a willingness to learn, compassion, energy and of course, a love for working with children. Please review the information linked [HERE](#) for an overview of our school system and the substitute teacher's role. Interested substitutes may apply by submitting a cover letter along with a resume to recruit@franklinps.net or stop by the HR Office to complete an application between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Mondays through Fridays!

Important Dates:

January:

- Tuesday, January 3: Welcome Back Students (day 5)
- Tuesday, January 10: Math MAP Testing (all grades)
- Friday, January 13: 1/2 day (dismissal at 10:45am)
- Monday, January 16: No School (MLK Jr. Day)
- Tuesday, January 17: Reading MAP Testing (all grades)
- Wednesday, January 18: Spirit Day (theme: Tropical)

February:

- Wednesday, February 1: Early Release (dismissal at 10:45am)
- Friday, February 10: Spirit Day (theme TBD)
- Tuesday, February 14 - Thursday, February 16: Footlighter Auditions
- Monday, February 20-Friday, February 24: No School (February Break)



Annie Sullivan Middle School

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