

# January Update 2024

Annie Sullivan Middle School

## Advisory Focus

During the month of December, students worked through two Second Step lessons focusing on managing their emotions, developing coping strategies, and understanding the role our brain plays with emotions. To conclude the month, students competed in a school-wide Pictionary tournament. Congratulations to Mrs. Welshoff, Mrs. Hawkesworth and Ms. Carens for coming out on top!

To start the new year and ring in 2024, students will reflect on their accomplishments and set goals for themselves for the rest of the school year.

## Attendance Matters!

As we continue to move beyond the years of schooling heavily affected 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 out to Mrs. Baldwin 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.



## Franklin Footlighter's Presents: Footloose Junior!!!

The Franklin Footlighters, a theatre group for all three middle schools, will be producing Footloose Jr. this year on Friday, May 10 and Saturday May 11.

There will be an informal meeting on Thursday, January 11th at 2:30pm at the Horace Mann Middle School auditorium. The

auditions will be held as follows:

- 6th and 7th grade: Monday, January 29
- 8th grade: Tuesday, January 30
- Callbacks: Thursday, February 1

The cast list will go out on Friday, February 2 and rehearsals will begin the following week. Stay tuned for more information and a Google Classroom link to be shared soon.

## 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

### 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 5th and March 6th). 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 on Tuesday and 11:15am-3:10pm on Wednesday.



## 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 2023-2024 school year. *Please keep in mind that any requests for letters of recommendation should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the deadline.*

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

- Monday, January 22 - Friday, February 9: 8th grade teachers make course recommendations in Aspen
- Tuesday, January 23: Franklin High School Music Program visits ASMS (during Flex)
- Monday, February 12: Panther Pride Event at Franklin High School (6pm)
- Tuesday, February 13 - Wednesday, February 28: 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 12 will be Fictional Character Day.

## Important Dates:

### January:

- Monday, January 1: No School (New Year's Day)
- Tuesday, January 2: Day 5 for Students
- Tuesday, January 2: BLAST visits ASMS (12:30-1:30pm)
- Tuesday, January 9: Reading MAP Testing
- Thursday, January 11: Math MAP Testing
- Friday, January 12: Spirit Day (theme: Fictional Character Day)
- Monday, January 15: No School (MLK Jr. Day)
- Tuesday, January 16: Half Day (10:45am dismissal)

### February:

- Thursday, February 1: NEAP testing for 8th grade students
- Friday, February 2: Half Day (10:45am dismissal)
- Tuesday, February 6: BLAST visits ASMS (12:30-1:30pm)
- Friday, February 9: Spirit Day (theme: TBD)
- Friday, February 9: PCC Meeting at 10am (see link above)
- Tuesday, February 13: 8th grade Course Selection window opens
- Monday, February 19- Friday, February 23: No School (February Vacation)
- Wednesday, February 28: Half Day (10:45am dismissal)
- Wednesday, February 28: 8th grade Course Selection closes in Aspen

## Annie Sullivan Middle School

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