

Greetings Lafayette Families and Friends,

If you are a veteran or novice to Lafayette School, welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I hope you all enjoyed the beautiful weather we had over the holiday weekend and are now smoothly nestling into a school year routine. It has been so nice to see all of your children arriving each day eager to learn and already making many friendships.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my greatest appreciation to all of you for being understanding and cooperative with all of the adjustments to daily structures we have implemented during the school day over the last few years. Some of which we have lifted since Covid, including turning the water fountains back on, which feels so good to have more normalcy back into our school day, and others of which seem to have improved the day to day operations and have continued to follow. As a community, we have proven our resiliency in the manner of working collaboratively to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all of us and continue to operate on a daily basis with confidence and wholeheartedness. Unfortunately, we are not invisible and Covid is rearing its ugly head around us again.

There are many days, early in the morning, it may be difficult to make the decision whether to keep your child home or send him/her into school. Generally speaking, if a child has a fever, or has had diarrhea and/or vomiting the previous night, your child should stay home the next day from school. Please consider that if your child is coughing and /or sneezing constantly, it's very likely they are unable to concentrate on their school work, and are allowing the spread of germs to others. We have staff members who are immunocompromised and/or have a household member who is, so I would strongly ask that you please take this also into consideration when making decisions in the morning whether to have your child attend school that day. If your child is experiencing any unexplained symptoms such as, cough, sore throat, headache, fever, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell, please contact your child's primary care physician to have them evaluated. We continue to closely monitor and follow The Center of Disease Control, NH Department of Health and Human Services, and NH Department of Education guidelines for safe practices for schools. None of us want to backslide and revisit the status we were in two years ago, however with everyone's cooperation and making safe and healthy decisions, I'm confident in all of you that we can work collectively to keep our school community safeguarded.

If a physician has prescribed antibiotics for a communicable illness (ie-Strep throat), the child may not return to school until after 24 hours of treatment. If your child has been under the care of a physician, please provide a note from the physician. If your child needs any prescription medication to be administered during the school day, the original packaging with the prescription label from the pharmacy accompanied by a physician order must be provided to the school. This provides required forms of identification for your child.

Lafayette Elementary School is one of few schools who continue with a "No- Nit" lice policy, which states that with any active cases of head lice the child is sent home and may return with treatment and removal of all live nits. All students will be checked for lice by the end of this week. Families are encouraged to teach their children about head lice prevention throughout the school year. The best method to help to prevent an outbreak at school is for families to take precautions and check their child's head frequently throughout the school year.

For the past two years, Dr. Joel Tuite, a local Ophthalmologist and owner of Hometown Eye Care, has been kind enough to offer his staff and state of the art equipment to come to Lafayette School and screen all of our students for vision impairments. Moving forward he will be coming every other year, therefore will not be coming this year. We want to make sure to maximize the capture rate to all of our students rather be inessential in our efforts. The Profile School owns its own hearing screen machine which they have generously allowed us to borrow each school year to screen our students. I will be screening all of our students within the next few days into next week. If you DO NOT want your child to be screened for hearing please contact me directly otherwise I will screen all students for hearing.

Within the next few months, Jesse Lyman, our PE teacher, and I will be teaching the puberty curriculum to grades 4, 5, and 6 over 2-3 classes. The curriculum gently introduces the various stages of puberty and personal hygiene for males and females. For the 6th grade students, HIV and AIDS is required to be introduced, however, the material is very broad and does not go into specifics, so to say. I have attached an "OPT OUT" form as it is a choice whether you would like your child to participate in such classes. It is a requirement to notify families within two weeks of teaching the curriculum, however I wanted to include this notification in this email as the sooner families are informed we are all able to begin having discussions with the children.

I have been in contact with Littleton Regional Hospital and they have agreed to host and send a team to vaccinate for influenza. Once I have an idea with specifics as far as time and date, I will communicate all of that information to you. At that time also, I will be sending home consent forms if you would like to have your child participate in the clinic here at Lafayette.

In closing, I enjoy coming to school each and every day and seeing your children. To hear them laughing, chatting amongst, and playing aside their peers is a beautiful thing and poses serious rewards as they continue to grow and learn. Keep being the amazing community that you are and thank you so very much for sharing your children with us! It takes a village and together we can!

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions/concerns throughout the school year.

Take good care of yourselves, be kind to one another, and let's have an amazing school year!

Warmly,  
Sam

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>

--

Samantha Presby, BSW, RN  
School Nurse  
Lafayette Regional School  
[spresby@lafayetteregional.org](mailto:spresby@lafayetteregional.org)  
(603) 823.7741