



CLINTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Updates & Information July 23, 2021

Board of Education / Superintendent Update

Eliot Middle School Principal Appointment

Ms. Kristin LaLima has been appointed as the Principal of Jared Eliot Middle School. Ms. LaLima holds a 6th-year degree in Educational Leadership and a Master of Arts degree in teaching from Sacred Heart University as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Keene State College. Most recently, Ms. LaLima has served as the Assistant Principal of Killingly Intermediate School (gr. 5-8) in Killingly, Connecticut. Prior to her administrative role, Ms. LaLima was a grade 4-5 teacher and teacher leader, a middle school reading specialist, and was recognized as District Teacher of the Year in 2015.

The selection committee recommended Ms. LaLima after an extensive interview process that included over 40 applicants. Ms. LaLima joins the Clinton community and brings a proven track record of middle school leadership and fostering a strong school culture and climate. She impressed all with her depth of knowledge of middle-level education, her engaging energy, her experiences in working with the 5-8 grade span, and her work in developing opportunities that empower and engage young adolescent learners. She has a strong commitment and proven ability to work collaboratively with teachers, students, and their families. We are excited to welcome Ms. LaLima to Clinton and to Eliot Middle School.

Return to School Plans

Each of our schools are preparing schedules, staff, and buildings to welcome our students back to school on September 1, 2021. Current work includes cleaning, technology updates and preparation, facility projects, and curriculum planning. While we are still awaiting guidance from the CT State Department of Public Health and the CSDE regarding the mitigation strategies that we must implement for the 2021-2022 school year, we are currently planning for student schedules and experiences to return to pre-pandemic models, including the ability to offer after-school programs and sports. Mitigation strategies that will be in place include following hygiene and cleaning recommendations, physical distancing, daily self-checks and staying home when experiencing illness. Other strategies such as wearing masks, contact tracing, quarantine, and testing have yet to be determined for the 2021-2022 school year. Decisions in these areas will be based on state public health and education guidance. We expect to receive that guidance in the near future, and once received, we will be updating our [return to school plan](#) related to all protocols. We will utilize School Messenger to send information to our families and will post all communications and plans on our webpage.

Fall Athletics and Vaccinations

The Connecticut Department of Public Health and partner athletic organizations in Connecticut released this publication, *STAY IN THE GAME* ([English](#), [Spanish](#)), encouraging youth athletes (12 and above), coaches, officials, and family members to get vaccinated now in order to be fully vaccinated for the start of fall athletics in order to limit or avoid interruptions in the season. Please review the information and suggested strategies for safe and positive participation in athletic activities this Fall season.

Summer Health Office Reminders

Mandated Physicals

Clinton Board of Education Policy and Connecticut State Statute Section 10-206c require a physical examination, conducted by a qualified medical provider, for all students prior to entering Kindergarten, 7th grade and 11th grade. Examinations completed after January 1/1/2020 of your child's 5th or 9th grade year that are submitted to the school nurse on the *state issued Blue Health Assessment Record* are valid to complete this requirement. Students cannot attend classes at the start of the school year of their 7th and 11th grade until all paperwork is completed and received by the school nurse. Tele-health appointments do not qualify to meet this requirement.

COVID 19 Vaccine Information

Your child is fully protected from the COVID-19 virus two weeks after the second shot of the Pfizer vaccine. Upon return to school, being fully vaccinated will protect your child from potential infection due to exposure to COVID-19 and may prevent your child from having to quarantine if exposed to an individual testing positive for COVID-19. Parents are encouraged to have their children immunized and should consult with their pediatrician for any questions regarding vaccination for their child. The Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD) is offering vaccine clinics throughout the summer every Tuesday from 2PM-6PM and every Friday morning from 8AM-11AM. Parents can contact CRAHD directly to make arrangements for the vaccine by calling (860) 661-3300. Parents/guardians can also contact Supervisor of Health Services Donna Frechette at dfrechette@clintonpublic.net for further guidance and assistance.