



Hello Groton–Dunstable Families. Second full week of school and we are beginning to see more and more routines in place. We wanted to share some of the ways we are looking to settle into the school goals for the year around, social emotional learning, data collection and building inclusive learning communities. As always, the links below serve as common resources. The newest was featured last week which will support you if you have to notify the district of an illness.

[Update Reopening September 23](#) Update from Dr. Chesson on Reopening.

[News Bites Archives](#): Archives of all issues.

[Your Health and Safety](#): Link to how we are keeping all learners and staff safe.

[PARENTS FLOW CHART FOR NOTIFICATION OF ILLNESS](#)

Social Emotional Learning and Data Collection

What we know about academic success is that it holds hands and is dependent upon social and emotional success. We know that you cannot have one without the other.

To that end, we have been collecting data as we start school to check in on how all of our students are generally feeling about their learning environments this year. After two weeks of this baseline, more general data, we

have been able to check in with students who are not feeling settled in. Now that we have done so, surveys will begin to become more about engagement and motivation at each level. With the help of counselors, building instructional leaders, and Alison Sancinito, coordinator of social emotional wellness, students will be receiving surveys that pertain more specifically to developmental level and student need. Teachers are also able to use this data as they create learning cultures in their classrooms. Thank you to all our staff for facilitating these surveys and to our students for answering them!

Building Inclusive Learning Communities:

Another important element of student engagement and motivation is building learning communities where all students feel significant and that they belong. This work has many different layers and we are always talking about making sure we provide opportunities for ourselves to understand the many layers our students represent. Our goal is always to help our students learn in communities where we promote understanding, resilience, grit and persistence. Now as we ask students to participate in school very differently than they are used to we worry about their ability to be engaged fully and practice resiliency.

In lieu of a VLOG this week, I hope that you will carve out time to attend the following webinar about resilience. This webinar is sponsored by the Groton Dunstable Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) and funded through a grant from the Groton Dunstable Education Foundation (GDEF).

Jon Mattleman will be speaking on resilience on Thursday, October 8th (this Thursday!) beginning at 6:30 PM.

Jon works with an organization called Minding

Your Mind. He has presented in our district before through our membership in the Middlesex Partnership for Youth. He is an inspiring presenter and can help parents and educators alike as they work to help children be resilient during our re–entry into schools. I will work to have a VLOG ready next week that adds to the topic of resilience for students.

In the meantime, join Jon on Thursday evening. You can find the link to the flyer below.

[Minding Your Mind: Re-Entry and Resilience](#)



In the meantime, two of my past VLOGS, growth mindset, and flipping your lid are ways that we can help our students be resilient. You can find both of those VLOGS by using the archive link below

[Mrs. D VLOGS ARCHIVE](#)

In our next issue, you will also be receiving a parent survey with some VLOG topic ideas. I would love to be able to use some data to inform my VLOG series through News Bites. Remember that after the sixth week of school, News Bites will become a monthly publication. Have a wonderful fall week!

Kristin DeFrancisco