



Hello Groton–Dunstable Families. We have completed the first six weeks of school ! This is quite a milestone. So many important things happen for students in the first six weeks of school. We work hard to:

- ★ Create a climate and tone of warmth and safety. Students can come to know each other and develop a sense of belonging through activities that help them define their commonality and their differences.
- ★ Teach the schedule and routines of the school day and our expectations for behavior in each of them. A sense of order and predictability in daily school life is important. It enables children to relax, to focus their energy on learning, and to feel competent.
- ★ Introduce students to the physical environment and the materials of the classroom and the school, and teach students how to use and care for them. In order for students to feel a sense of ownership for the school environment and materials, they must become familiar with them and have time to explore them.
- ★ Establish expectations about ways we will learn together in the year ahead. We want to generate excitement and enthusiasm about the curricula we will engage in this year—complicated new math concepts, engrossing novels full of dilemmas,

explore beautiful art materials and techniques for using them, microscopes to observe a previously invisible world.

In addition, all the while we are setting the stage for high standards, participation, developing independence, learning about ourselves as learners and asking for what we need as learners.

We are THRILLED that we have been able to do this work in our classrooms and that we were able to have the time to prepare to also accomplish these same hallmarks for our students who are learning at home. This will most certainly help us as we face whatever the rest of the year has in store for us!

BELOW PLEASE FIND THE “AT YOUR FINGERTIPS” RESOURCES

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

October 21

[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](#)

**Please see the answer to the most commonly asked question below followed by a link to more commonly asked questions.**

***Does a symptomatic child with an alternative diagnosis, such as a strep throat, still need a COVID test before returning to school?***

In order to protect schools from the introduction of COVID, testing of symptomatic

individuals should be the default practice. Students with acute onset of new symptoms (especially respiratory symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) or fever should almost always receive a negative COVID test before returning to school. Health care providers have clinical discretion to consider chronic illnesses or symptoms such as headache and abdominal or gastrointestinal symptoms and use clinical judgment to defer testing when an alternative cause is firmly established.

[DESE FAQ OCT 12.docx](#)

[Travel Policy for Staff and Student 10/2020](#)



Please take some time this week to check out the VLOG archives and enjoy one that you may have not had the time to watch yet. I am looking forward to VLOGGING on a book next week called Yardsticks. This book talks about the developmental space for school aged children and Hallmarks of their behavior at different ages.

[Mrs. D VLOGS ARCHIVE](#)

[SURVEY for vlog ideas](#) I am leaving this up for one more week in case you need more time!

Have a Wonderful Weekend! Kristin and Laura