

Letter to the Team #1

August 9, 2021



I would like to take a moment to recognize the entire Bangor community who worked tirelessly to maintain in-person learning five days a week for our students during the 2020 - 2021 school year. This tremendous feat does not go unnoticed as the Bangor School Department prepares for the upcoming academic year. Parents, teachers, nurses, staff, administrators, and most importantly, the students played an integral role in our success.

These successes are also the result of following CDC guidelines and the communication between key players involved in student health and safety. **In an effort to protect the safety and welfare of all of our stakeholders, the Bangor School Department will follow the CDC recommendation to wear masks in schools. The CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.**

All students and school employees will be required to wear masks while they are inside any school building.

All parents will be required to wear a mask once they enter a school building.

All people on public or private school-provided transport, including buses, vans, and sport related travel, are required to wear a mask.

Masks will not be required while students are outside.

Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have any signs of infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.

While wearing masks is a temporary inconvenience, it allows us to return to a more regular school environment with in-person learning for all students, extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, and the freedom to move more easily around our schools.

Guidance from the CDC tells us that vaccination is currently the leading public health strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are eligible to receive the vaccine, it is highly recommended that you do so as soon as possible. All vaccines are free and widely available at your local pharmacy, doctor's office or walk-in care center. Vaccination sites can be found online at www.vaccines.gov/search/. As we know, vaccines are not yet approved for children under the age of twelve and therefore we strongly believe that secondary measures of protection must be used to ensure the continuation of in-person learning.

We will continue to monitor the guidance released by the CDC, and changes will be shared with the community through the Bangor School Department website, Bangor App, and social media accounts. As members of the Bangor community, we pride ourselves on supporting each other; let us continue to work together as a community to ensure the delivery of quality education to all of our students. I look forward to working with all of you during the upcoming school year.

Enthusiastically yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Tager". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "Tager".

James R. Tager
Superintendent of Schools