



OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

476 North Avenue, Rochester, Massachusetts 02770-1899

Telephone: (508) 763-8011

Fax: (508) 763-9821

www.oldcolony.us

Aaron L. Polansky
Superintendent-Director

Karen J. Guenette
Principal

Jackie Machamer
Assistant Principal/CVTE Coordinator

Krystla Fay
Special Services Coordinator

Linda Deady
Academic Coordinator/Data Analyst

Sarah Griffith
Business Manager

Principal Guenette's March 2018 News

Sometimes **March** can be a long month for our students, during the school year, but it is also an **important and very busy month**, as well. It's also a transition month from winter to spring, as well as the **end of trimester 2** on March 9th and the **start of trimester 3** at Old Colony on March 12th.

Reporting your students' absence has just gotten a little easier! We have **added a page** to our **website** at www.oldcolony.us to **report absences by email**. On the **Parents' page** of the website, please see the **links** to the **left-hand side**. You will see "**Reporting a Student Absence**." Clicking on it will bring you to the **information to be filled out** about reporting your child's absence and the **email link** is featured at the top of the page. Please feel free to **continue to report absences by phone** to our **Attendance line at 508-763-8011 ext. 111 by 11:00 a.m.**

The **Great Ponds Art Gallery** at the **Lakeville Public Library** will be hosting **14 Graphic Communications students' artwork** during the month of **March**. These students' **art pieces were chosen and honored** at the gallery. On **Saturday, March 3, 2018**, there will be a **High School Art Exhibit Reception** from **11 a.m. – 1 p.m.** at **4 Precinct St., Lakeville, MA**, to kick off the **month-long display**.

We are **instituting a state-mandated screening program** in **ninth grade** related to the **use of alcohol, marijuana and other substances**. The Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (**SBIRT**) **program** screening process is part of our **annual** state-mandated screening program. All screenings are interview based and will be **conducted in confidential individual sessions** by **our professional staff**. The screenings will **take place during the week of March 19th**. We will utilize the **CRAFT II screening tool** which is the **most commonly used** substance use screening tool **for adolescents in Massachusetts**.

If you would like to **opt your child out** of this screening, please provide the school **with written notification**. Please contact **Michelle Humphrey, School Nurse**, at mhumphrey@oldcolony.us or if you have any questions about this program. In addition, **screening is voluntary** and students may choose not to answer any or all of the screening questions.

We **encourage all parents/guardians** to **talk** with their **child about substance use**. For ideas on how to begin these conversations and other **helpful information**, please **refer** to the **SBIRT "A Guide for Parents"** brochure located on the **Parents' page** on the Old Colony website <http://www.oldcolony.us> for **references and information**.

Course selections for 2018-2019 school year. We are pleased and excited to announce a schedule change for next year. Students will have the opportunity to choose from a list electives as well as have a

choice of which science course they prefer for 2018-2019. The elective will meet five out of ten days during their academic cycle and will alternate with Physical Education & Fitness. **Grade 9, 10 & 11 students** will be given a **course selection sheet in the near future** which will include the science options and elective options. We ask that you **read the course descriptions carefully**, have a discussion with your child, and **prioritize the student's first three science choices and the first five elective choices**. Please feel free to contact the appropriate guidance counselor if you have any questions as you help the student fill out the selection sheet. We are excited to offer these new elective opportunities for our OC students and ask for your patience and understanding as we will need flexibility in creating schedules. Efforts will be made to schedule students in their priority choices, but their choices are **not guaranteed**. The **number of sections and types of courses, both for science and the electives**, will be **determined by student interest, and student and teacher availability**. We will send a reminder when the selection sheet is due. Failure to return the selection sheet will result in the administration making the choice for the student.

The **Student Council** is very active this month, along with their advisor, Ms. Thompson. Their **annual spring conference** will be held from **March 7-9th** at the **Cape Codder Resort** in **Hyannis**, and the students will be accompanied by Ms. Thompson for this overnight trip.

Please join the Old Colony **PTO Spring-Fling Dinner/Dance Fundraiser** on **Saturday, March 10th** to be held at **Loon Pond Lodge**, in Lakeville, MA. **Information** about the **event and ticket purchase** can be found online at <http://bit.ly/2DJZLY>. This night will certainly be a **fun-filled fundraising event for our parents and teachers!**

OC Spring College Admissions Seminar hosted by OC Guidance Dept. and the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA). 6:30-7:30 followed by Questions & Answers 7:30-8:00. The college application process can be overwhelming for high school juniors and seniors, as well as their families. This seminar provides a detailed overview of the entire process, including current trends in admissions, how to build a college list, the various components of the college application, and basics about financial aid. **Please RSVP to the Guidance Office at 508-763-8011 x231.**

Mrs. Murray, yearbook advisor, would like to announce that the 2018 yearbook deadline is March 31. Go to Jostens.com/yearbook to order. Also, yearbook supplements will be created and printed by the Graphic Communication shop and mailed to seniors after graduation. The supplements will include all of the spring sports, events (ex. Mr. Cougar), prom, and graduation. A letter and order form will be mailed soon, and the deadline for orders will be on May 1st.

March is always an **MCAS** month in education. The **MCAS retake exams in ELA will be on February 28, March 1st, and 2nd** and the **Math retake exam will be on Monday, March 5th** for upperclassmen, and the **Grade 10 ELA MCAS tests run from Tuesday, March 27 through Thursday, March 29**. If your child is involved with this testing, and you have **additional questions**, please contact **Rebecca Mitchell, MCAS Coordinator**, at x-198 or email her at rmitchell@oldcolony.us. Here are some **"Tips to Help Your Child Prepare for the MCAS Test:"**

- Please see that your child arrives at school on time;
- Please do not dismiss your child during the testing time, unless it is an emergency;
- Please make sure that your child is well rested and eats breakfast;
- Please have your child dress comfortably;
- Please encourage your child to do the best work possible and to have a positive attitude;
- Please encourage your child to listen to all test-taking directions and to ask questions, if any directions are unclear;

- Please encourage your child to read the test carefully and answer all questions asked of them;
- Please remind your child not to get stuck on any one item; and
- Please encourage your child to check answers for accuracy.

On **Saturday, March 31, 2018**, the **Old Colony Football Program** will be sponsoring the **1st Annual Mattress Sale!** Profits from this sale will **help pay for new uniforms and end-of-season awards banquet.** If you, or anyone you know, might be in need of a new mattress, please **visit Old Colony from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.** in the gymnasium. There will be **29 sets on display** and **a team of experts on hand** to answer any questions, while you **save up to 50% off retail prices.** **Custom sizes** are also available! This is a **no pressure** sale. Just stop by and take a look. **Layaway, delivery and onsite financing** are available. If you need a new mattress before this sale or **have any questions**, please contact **Jack Isaacs** of **Custom Fundraising Solutions** at jisaacs@customfundraisingsolutions.com. We **appreciate your support** of this fundraiser and hope you'll help **spread the word to neighbors, family, and friends!**

Old Colony's 2nd Summer Discovery Program will run from **July 16-20, 2018**. This five-day experience is **open to any students entering grades 5-8** with options for **career exploration, sports and recreation**, and other **exciting opportunities**. Please visit <http://bit.ly/2Bz278m> and sign up for some incredible opportunities to **explore building, cooking, creating, designing**, etc. **Become part of the OC Creates movement** as middle school students get to explore opportunities to **ignite their passion for learning.**

The following are a list of dates and events for the month of March at Old Colony:

- Wed., Feb. 28 through Tues., Mar. 6 – MCAS retests for ELA & Math – upperclassmen
- Fri., Mar. 2 – Skills USA District Competition at Greater NB Voke Tech
- Sat., Mar. 3 – Lakeville Public Library Art Exhibit Reception 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Tues., Mar. 6 – OC Tour w/Mr. Trahan at 8:15 a.m. – meet in the lobby; GSA Club w/Mrs. Lacroix at 2:20 p.m. in the cafeteria; PTO meeting at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria
- Wed., Mar. 7 – Southcoast Mobile Heath Van at OC from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – students can make an appointment through Mrs. Humphrey, school nurse; Edaville Railroad Casting Call Appointments for Co-op & Summer jobs from 2:30 – 5 p.m. at Old Colony
- Wed., Mar. 7- Fri., Mar. 9 – Student Council to attend Leadership Conference in Hyannis, MA, with Ms. Thompson
- Fri., Mar. 9 – Trimester 2 ends and ALL senior portfolios are due today to their related instructors
- Sat., Mar. 10 – PTO Spring Fling Dinner-Dance @ Loon Pond Lodge, Lakeville, MA, from 6:30 – 10:30 p.m.
- Mon., Mar. 12 – Trimester 3 begins; Graphics Field trip to Boston
- Tues., Mar. 13 – OC Tour w/Mr. Trahan at 8:15 a.m. – meet in the lobby; Metal Fab to Steamfitters Union Training Facility Field Trip
- Wed., Mar. 14 – Early Release – 12:15 p.m. student dismissal; National Honor Society Restaurant Fundraiser – Texas Roadhouse from 5-8 pm. NHS will receive 15% of sales that are accompanied by a flyer which will be posted around school and copies will be available Monday-Wednesday of that week during all lunches.
- Thurs., Mar. 15 – Educational Tours Final parent/student meeting for Italy/Germany Trip w/Ms. Guy at 6:30 p.m. in the OC Library

- Fri., Mar. 16 – NHS Dodgeball tournament, 2:30 – 3:30 in the Gym
- Mon., Mar. 19 – OC Late Start at 9:45 a.m.; OC spring sports begin today after school
- Tues./Wed., Mar. 20 – 21 – SBIRT substance screening with Ms. Humphrey, Mrs. Vandal, and Mrs. Lacroix for grade 9 students
- Tues., Mar. 20 – OC Tour w/Mr. Trahan at 8:15 a.m. – meet in the lobby; Nontraditional Club to MA Girls in Trades field trip w/Ms. Clarke
- Wed., Mar. 21 – Student Advisory Council to the SC meeting w/Mrs. Guenette @ 7:30 a.m. in the office conference room; School Council meeting w/Mrs. Guenette @ 3 p.m. in the library; School Committee meeting @ 6 p.m. in the cafeteria
- Thurs., Mar. 22 – Bernard’s Driving School Parent Class from 6-7 p.m. at the Union St., New Bedford, MA office w/Nancy Bernard
- Fri., Mar. 23 – Old Colony Report Cards mailed home today
- Fri.-Sat., Mar. 23-25 – MVA Convention for Staff at Patriot Place, Foxboro, MA
- Tues., Mar. 27 – OC Spring College Admissions Seminar In the café, 6:30 - 8
- Tues., Mar. 27 – Thurs., Mar. 29 – Grade 10 ELA MCAS tests
- Tues., Mar. 27 – Grades 10/11 College Information Night w/Guidance Dept. & MEFA from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the cafeteria
- Wed., Mar. 28 – Health Careers to GiftsToGive field trip; School Committee Meeting for Public Budget Hearing for FY’19 at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria
- Fri., Mar. 30 – No School – Good Friday
- Sat., Mar. 31 – Gridiron Club Mattress Fundraiser in the gymnasium from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Karen Guenette, Principal
 kguenette@oldcolony.us
 Follow me on Twitter @OCPrincipalKG