



November 24, 2021

Dear Lawrence Public Schools families,

Happy Thanksgiving! I suspect we have all learned over the past two years to take fewer precious things for granted, and so this year I find myself more grateful than ever for this community, its amazing people, and the opportunity to be a part of it. I will be thinking with gratitude of all of you tomorrow and throughout the holiday weekend.

Here are some important items to be aware of for our return Monday and the weeks ahead:

- Holiday schedule update: Wednesday, December 22 will now be a half day for all schools. As a reminder, Thursday, December 23 is also a half day, and that is our last day of school before the holiday vacation.
- Massachusetts is experiencing a rise in COVID-19 rates, and we cannot afford to lessen our collective commitment to keeping everyone safe and healthy at school. LPS' continued areas of emphasis include daily cleaning, frequent hand-washing, air purifiers in every classroom, [COVID testing](#), and of course proper mask-wearing, which remains an essential tool for preventing the spread. Thank you also for keeping your child home if they show symptoms or are sick.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is now available for free to anyone age 5 and older, and many of our schools will continue to host clinics next month. You can find the [clinic schedule](#), details on the city's [Youth Vaccine Prize Giveaway](#) and more at [LawrencePublicSchools.org](#). Note that fully vaccinated students are exempt from quarantine protocols and testing – including test and stay – if they become a close contact and remain asymptomatic. You can [find more information here](#) on the vaccine for children, as well as other local locations where it is available.
- Earlier this week you should have received an emailed invitation to participate in one of our upcoming [Portrait of a Graduate community forums](#). I hope you will consider participating -- family input is essential to this exciting project!

Thank you all again for your support of Lawrence Public Schools throughout this fall, and please enjoy a happy, healthy Thanksgiving and weekend with your families and loved ones.

Cynthia Paris  
Superintendent of Schools