

DECEMBER 8, 2021

Finn Academy: An Elmira Charter School

SCHOOL-WIDE NEWSLETTER



Dear Finn Families,

We know that stress levels continue to be high for a variety of reasons, including the looming presence of COVID. Please know that we are actively trying to ensure that meet all scholar needs and support families in every way that we can. We ask for your partnership in responding and reaching out with kindness and understanding. Our staff is working through many new challenges brought to light this year, and having your support and same-side approach, enables us to keep moving forward.

Best,
Aimee Carlo
Dean of Scholars

We are crew

Upcoming Dates

Board of Trustees Meeting

12/13 @ 6:00 pm

6th grade MP 2 Progress
Reports

Week of 12/20

Last day of School for
2021

12/22

Winter Recess—NO SCHOOL

12/23–1/2

Winter NWEA Testing

Mid-January



COVID REGULATIONS UPDATE

Until now, NAAT/PCR tests were required to permit individuals to return to school after developing COVID-like symptoms (regardless of their vaccination status). Effective immediately, schools are now able to accept negative antigen test results (i.e. rapid tests) if someone presents with symptoms and has **no known contact** with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This **does not** include at-home, over the counter (OTC) tests—the antigen tests must still be administered in a medical setting.

In addition to a negative NAAT/PCR or antigen test, if scholars have symptoms they must be well enough to participate in school meaning no rhinorrhea (runny nose) or cough severe enough to make mask wear difficult or unhygienic, fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication, and must meet other school requirements to return to school after a non-COVID illness.

Please see the link below to the new guidance:

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/12/ttsandtoq_memo_for_lhds_12.3.21.pdf

UNIFORM REMINDER

Please ensure that you are sending your scholars in approved uniform items daily. We are experiencing a high volume of scholars arriving in non-uniform clothes, which violates our Uniform Policy. If you need support in obtaining uniform items for your scholars, we are happy to help with this; otherwise, please ensure your scholar is adhering to the policy.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE



Two letters have been sent regarding scholar physicals, and that they were due in October. Next week, a Nurse Practitioner from the Elmira City School District, will be conducting physicals for any Finn scholar that has not submitted updated paperwork.

If you do not want your child to have a physical at the school, you **must contact the school by Friday, December 10th**, end of day and submit proof of an updated physical or upcoming appointment.

COLD WEATHER WEAR

With the temperature dropping, please ensure that your scholar is coming to school with appropriate outerwear (i.e.: coats, hats, gloves, etc.) We do not have the capacity to have a large volume of scholars staying in the office for recess due to inappropriate recess clothing. If you need support in finding cold weather clothes, please contact the main office or Finn Family crew.

It is the school's policy to have scholars go outside for recess as long as the temperature is above 25 degrees

VIRTUAL WINTER SING

Although we won't be hosting an in-person Winter Sing this year, our music team is hard at work preparing a recorded series of Winter Sing songs for families to enjoy!



UPCOMING BOARD PROPOSAL

At Monday's Board meeting, school leaders will be proposing to the Board of Trustees to shift January 3rd from a regular in-person instructional day, to an asynchronous day for scholars and planning day for staff. We will notify families of the decision.

OWL TREE

Thank you to all of the staff members and families that have donated to our Owl Tree Program. If you signed up to receive gifts, please pick them up on Monday, December 20th at the main entrance.